MASS. EA40.2:M57/7/:insert #1

METROPOLITAN PARKS SYSTEM · 1893 - 1993

Centennial Series: Spring Events

Rediscover Your Parks

"For crowded populations to live in health and happiness, they must have space for air, for light, for exercise, for rest and for the peaceful beauty of nature..." **Charles Eliot, Landscape Architect, 1893.**

Saturday, April 3rd
Spring Parks Fair at Lynn Heritage State Park

10:00 - 4:00 . *Lynn Heritage State Park Visitor Center, 590 Washington Street, Lynn.* Exhibits from park and land protection organizations will be on display at the Lynn Heritage State Park Visitor Center.

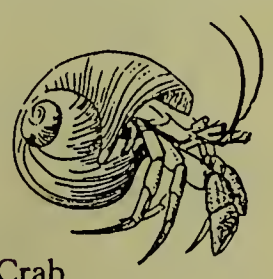
Co-sponsored by the Metropolitan District Commission, Department of Environmental Management, City of Lynn, and Massachusetts Audubon/North Shore. **Current participating organizations** include the National Park Service, Lynn Historical Society, Lynn Water and Sewer Commission, Friends of Nahant Beach, Friends of Lynn Woods, Friends of Breakheart Reservation, MDC Recreation Division.

Call **727-7705** for more information.

Saturday, April 10th
The First Public Beach in America

12:00 - 2:00 . *MDC Eliot House, One Eliot Circle, Revere.* Well known local historian Peter McCauley will present a program on the history of Revere Beach. Through old photographs and lecture, Mr. McCauley will take participants on a walk through the colorful history of America's first public beach.

Call **727-5350** for details.



Hermit Crab

Saturday, May 8th
The Birth of Beaver Brook

10:00 - 4:00. *Beaver Brook Reservation, Mill Street, Belmont.* Beaver Brook Reservation was the first parcel of land purchased for the first metropolitan park system in the United States. Well known landscape architects Robert Morris Copeland, Fredrick Law Olmsted and Charles Eliot are associated with this property. This program celebrates one hundred years of park landscape design through the following events.

10:00 - 11:00 *Natural History of the Brook.* MDC Rangers.

11:00 - 12:00 *Cultural History of the "Waverly Oaks".* Boston University Office of Public Archaeology.

12:00 - 1:00 *Birthday Party.* Bring a bag lunch - drinks and birthday cake provided, followed by tree planting ceremony with MDC Commissioner Bhatti.

1:00 - 2:30 *Landscape Management Plan.* Discussion and tour of the park rehabilitation efforts by The Halverson Company, Inc.

3:00 - 4:00 *Formation of the Friends of Beaver Brook.* Refreshments.

Call **662-5230** for meeting places, directions and more information.

Monday, May 10th - Monday May 31st
Metropolitan Parks System Exhibit at the State House

9:00 - 5:00. This centennial show was developed to celebrate the creation of our park system and educate the public of the need to protect and preserve this unique resource. The parks and parkways established in 1893, is reknowned as the first metropolitan park system in the United States and one of America's first successful efforts in regional planning.

Metropolitan Parks System. A three dimensional hands on exhibit that locates (via lights) the natural, reclaimed and historic landscapes of the system.

Boston Harbor Islands State Park: Georges Island. A three dimensional model showing the islands role from the Civil War to present.

Charles River Basin. A three dimensional model displaying the relationship of the river to the metropolitan area.

Quabbin Reservoir. This display illustrates the movement of water from three active watersheds which supplies 2.5 million people with water.

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Saturday, May 15th

The Wheels of Time: Water Powered Industry to Public Parkland

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9:30 - 12:30. Over one hundred years ago Virginia Woods became the first private parcel of land given for public use in the country. Given to the Trustees of Reservations, it was turned over to the Metropolitan Parks Commission and became part of the Middlesex Fells Reservation. Within the Woods is Spot Pond Brook which has been designated a National Archaeological District. A generous donation has made possible a self guided historic trail of this early water powered industrial center. This program will celebrate the donation of Virginia Woods, and the opening of the historic trail.

9:00 - 9:30 *Parking and shuttling of visitors to Virginia Woods.* Refreshments.

9:30 - 10:15 *Commemoration of Virginia Woods.* An historic re-enactment by MDC costumed rangers, commemoration by Frederick Winthrop, Director of Trustees of Reservations, & Commissioner Bhatti.

10:30 - 11:00 *Archaeological District Designation.* The Massachusetts Historical Commission will present the MDC with the certificate of designation.

11:00 - 12:30 *Opening of the Spot Pond Brook Self Guided Historic Trail.* Guided tours of this trail by MDC rangers. Brochures will be available free for this event. Wear sturdy walking shoes for this moderate, hilly 1.5 mile walk.

Call **662-5230** for details.

Friday, June 5th - Wednesday, June 30th

Parks System Exhibit at the Boston Public Library

M-Th 9:00 - 9:00 , Fri - Sat 9:00 - 5:00. *Boston Room.* This show consists of various models featuring the Metropolitan Parks System. It highlights the Brook Farm Historic Site, illustrating its place in time and the system.

Saturday, June 5th

Centennial and National Trails Day Celebration: Breakheart, Middlesex Fells, and Blue Hills Reservations

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Breakheart
Round the Reservation
11:00 - 2:00.
Meet at Reservation headquarters, 177 Forest St., Saugus. This hike is the longest in the park, crossing five, 200' hills, passing the lakes and the Saugus River. Bring a bag lunch, a drink and wear sturdy hiking boots. Not recommended for children under 12. Co-sponsored by the Friends of Breakheart Reservation. Call **662-5230** for more information.

Middlesex Fells
Skyline Trail Hike with the new Fells Trail Map
9:00 - 2:00. *Meet at Sheepfold Picnic Area, Route 28 in Stoneham.* Over 40 volunteers, computers and satellites went into re-designing the Fells trail map. The new version will be available for sale by the Friends of the Fells on National Trails Day for the Skyline Trail Hike. The hike will be long and strenuous. Not recommended for children under 12. Bring a lunch, a drink and wear sturdy hiking boots. Co-sponsored by the Friends of the Fells. Call **662-5230** for more information.

Blue Hills
Trails Day Exposition
10:00 - 3:30. *Houghton's Pond, Hillside St., Milton.* The Blue Hills, over 6500 acres of forests, ponds, hilltops and wetlands, offers 100 miles of scenic trails and provides access for a variety of outdoor enthusiasts.

10:00 - 3:00. *Trail maintenance.* Work with the Blue Hills staff, Appalachian Mountain Club's Youth Opportunities Program, and Outdoor Explorations.

12:00 - 2:00. *Exposition.* Exhibits and activities from a variety of trail users, including hikers, mountain bikers, equestrians and x-c skiers. Free raffle and award ceremony.

2:00 - 3:00 *Tucker Hill Hike.* A 1.5 hour guided walk among summer blossoms and beautiful woodlands. Wear sturdy walking shoes.

Call **698-1802** for more information.

Coming Attractions

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* Birthday Party
* Fireworks at the Esplanade
* Asian Festival
* Celebration at Castle Island
* Centennial Classics:
  Golf Tournament
  Volleyball Tournament
  Water Carnival

Call **617/727-1993** for more information.

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1893 1993

METROPOLITAN PARKS SYSTEM CENTENNIAL 1893-1993

1993

CALENDAR OF EVENTS & PROGRAMS

JANUARY	FEBRUARY	MARCH	APRIL
1 Annual First Day Hike Blue Hills 1:00 p.m 30 Winter Wildlife Cruise 30 Family Owl Prowl 6-9pm	15-19 Back in Time: February School Vacation Week at Trailside 10am-5pm	*1-5 Hockey Classic* *6&7 Hockey Classic Finals- Cronin Rink, Revere* 6-14 New England Flower Show 6-14 Annual Maple Sugar Festival at Breakheart (wkends-public) (wkday-schools) 6-7 Maple Sugaring at Blue Hills - 10am -5pm	*3 "Spring Parks Fair" Lynn Heritage State Park 10:00am-4:00pm* *3-30 Centennial Exhibit Lynn Heritage State Park* *3 Easter Egg Hunt Victory Rd. Park Dorchester at 12 Noon* *10 "The First Public Beach in America" Eliot House, Revere 12:00 noon-2:00pm* 17 Stony Brook Cleanup 10am-3pm 19-23 Dinosaurs Galore: April Vacation at Trailside Museum 10:00am-5:00pm 22 Beaver Brook Cleanup (E.Day Event)
MAY	**JUNE**	**JULY**	**AUGUST**
1 Cleanup at Blue Hills, 9:00-3:00 pm *8 "The Birth of Beaver Brook" Beaver Brook, Belmont 10:00 am -4:00 pm* 8 Hemlock George Cleanup 9:00 -3:00 pm 8 Breakheart Cleanup 8 Belle Isle Marsh Kite Festival *15 "The Wheels of Time: Water Powered Industry to Public Parkland" 9:30 am- 12:30 pm* 15 Treasure Islands Cleanup 9:00 am -5:00 pm 22 Nahant Beach Cleanup 22 Middlesex Fells Cleanup 29-31 Maritime Festival	*5-30 "Park System Exhibit at the Boston Public Library"* *5 "Centennial & National Trails Day Celebration: Breakheart, Middlesex Fells, and Blue Hills" 9:00am - 3:00 pm* *20 Manulife Finacial's Bike Boston 8:00am-4:00pm* 20 Chelsea Kite Festival 30-July 4: Harbor Islands Treasure Hunt	4 Boston Pops Concert - 20th Anniversary of Fireworks - Hatch Shell 11 & 29 Georges Island Concert Series 18 Clean Harbor Day - All Islands *24 Asian Festival Esplanade/Hatch Shell* *24 Echoes thru Time: Hemlock George* *25 Georges Island Children's Festival* *27 Castle Island* * *Canoe Tours: Rumney Marsh/Belle Isle* * *Sandcastle Competition Round 1-all beaches* * French at the Fort	1 Lifesaving on the Harbor 7&8--20th Anniv. Harbor Island Civil War Encampment *14 Centennial Cruise: Boston Harbor Islands State Park* *14 Brook Farm Day* 19 & 22 Georges Island Concert Series 21 Harbor Defense Day 22 Edward Rowe Snow Day * Tug of War- Blue Hills * Sandcastle Comp. Finals * *Union Boat Club Rowing Event*
SEPTEMBER	**OCTOBER**	**NOVEMBER**	**DECEMBER**
11 "54th Parade to Camp Meigs" 18-19 Sky Fest : Blue Hills 10:00am- 5:00 pm 25 Quincy Quarry Climb Festival * Coastweek * Celtic Festival * Rumney Marsh * *TTOR - Reenactment of 1 of Original 4 Charles River Treks* * Arts in the Park- Belle Isle	3-4 Native American Celebration* 24 Head of the Charles Regatta CRWA 24 "Gone Batty" - Blue Hills/Trailside 29-30 Halloween Overnight Blue Hills/ Trailside 30 Halloween on the Harbor * Blue Hills * Nahant Beach * *HMI- Reenactment of the 3 other Treks*	*6 Quincy Quarry to Bunkerhill Monument Walk* 20-21 Wildlife Weekend Blue Hills/Trailside	

* = Date to be Announced

Centennial Series Events in Bold & Italic Print

For Information About Events Contact: The MDC Centennial Event Hotline (617)859-3375

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Preservation Copy

FUN FACTS

The Metropolitan Parks System includes seventy-five sites which are listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

The first artificial snow making process was discovered and used at the Blue Hills Ski Area.

The only public rest rooms listed on the National Register of Historic Places are located in the Blue Hills.

In the Seventeenth Century, a sea serpent was reported swimming near Egg Rock, off Nahant Beach.

The MDC operates a recreational facility, the Thompson Center in Hyde Park, that is especially designed for people who are physically challenged.

Fort Warren's most famous use was as a Civil War prison. Over 2,000 prisoners were held there, including the Vice-President of the Confederacy, Alexander Hamilton Stephens.

WGBH gets its name because its radio tower is on Great Blue Hill.

In 1827 Edgar Allen Poe served in the Army on Castle Island. It has been alleged that his story, "The Cask of Amontillado" was based on a legend he heard there.

The Great Blue Hill was a signaling post during the Colonial Period. From this area was signaled the repeal of the Stamp Act and also the movement of British forces during the Revolutionary War.

Sylvanus Thayer, the "Father of West Point" supervised the construction of both Fort Warren and Fort Independence.

Salt marshes are, acre for acre, the most biologically productive ecosystems in the United States.

At one time the fortifications in and around Boston Harbor made the Port of Boston the third most defended harbor in the United States

Lovells Island was the alternative site for locating the Statue of Liberty.

In the 1840's ice from Spot Pond was shipped worldwide. Frederick Tudor "the Ice King", who invented the process which could store ice in ocean going ships, had a large ice cutting business and house on its shores.

The Civil War marching song, "John Brown's Body" was written on Georges Island; it later provided the melody for Julia Ward Howe's "Battle Hymn of the Republic".

Revere Beach was the first public beach in the United States.

The MDC offers lessons in the following sports: swimming, sailing, skating, golf, and skiing.

Dwelling in the Blue Hills Reservation are two venomous species of snakes: the eastern timber rattlesnake and the copperhead. Coyotes, red fox, turkey vultures, hawks, and owls can also be found here.

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Metropolitan Parks System 1893-1993 Centennial Year

Rediscover Your Parks

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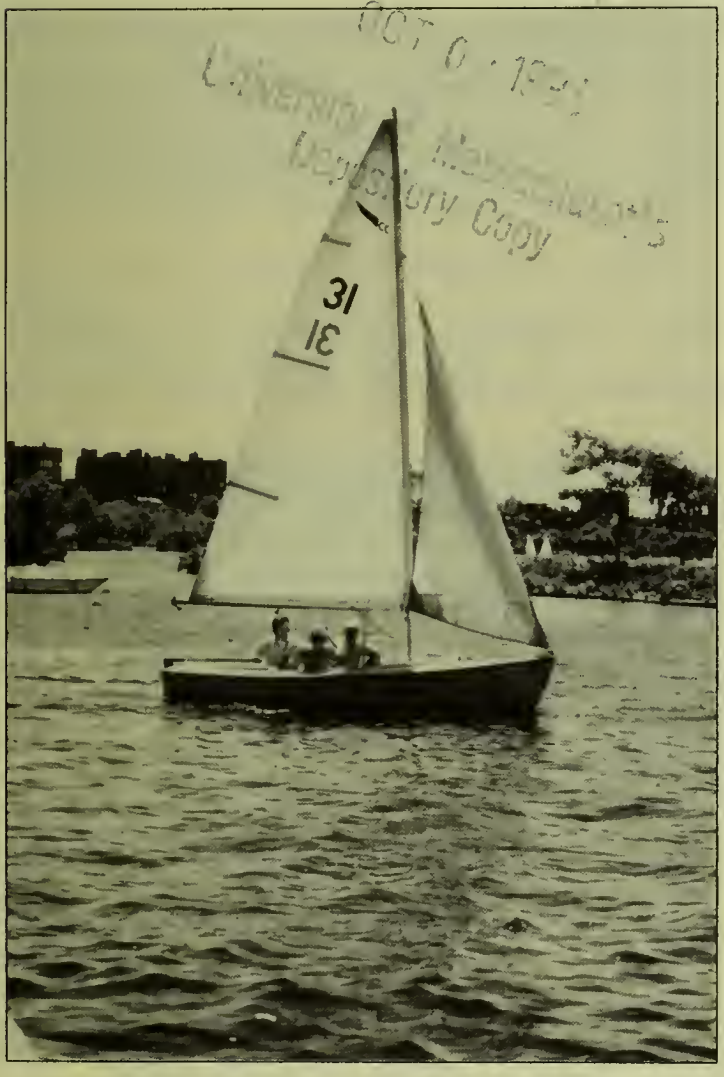


Preserving the past... protecting the future

MDC

Metropolitan Parks System

1893 1993

The Metropolitan Parks System

was created in 1893 by a foresighted group of Massachusetts citizens, including landscape architect Charles Eliot, a colleague of Frederick Law Olmsted and journalist Sylvester Baxter. Their purpose was to preserve "the rock hills, the stream banks, and the bay and seashore", the distinctive natural features of the Boston area. The system encompasses the ring of hills which surround Boston - the Middlesex Fells, Prospect Hill in Waltham, and the Blue Hills; the three major rivers - the Charles, Mystic and Neponset which connect to the ocean and the bay beaches. Scenic parkways link the parks and forested reservations in a system. The Metropolitan Parks System works because it is a regional network that transcends local boundaries.

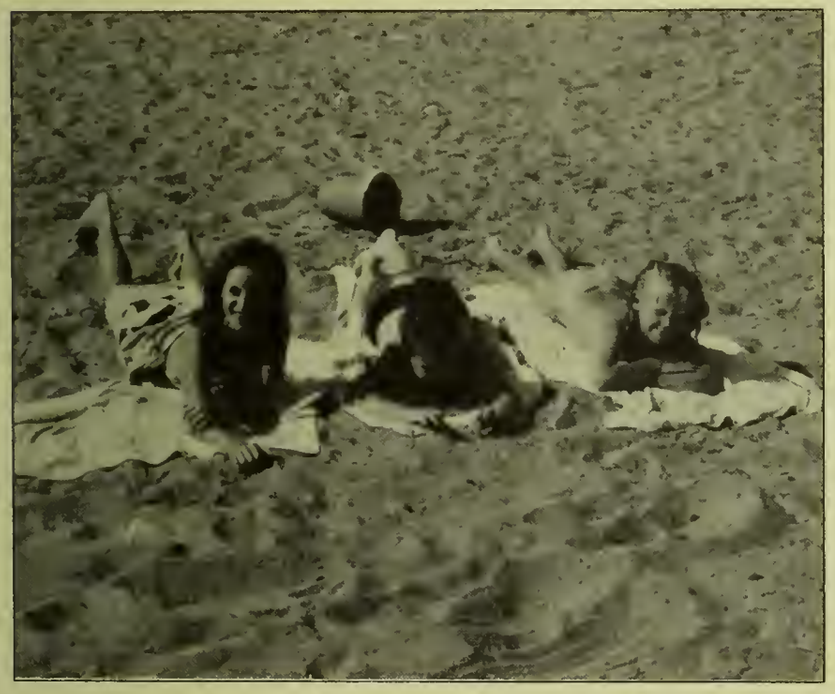
Our Centennial Year Goals

are to continue to protect, manage, and plan the growth of this historic park system for the enjoyment of future generations, and to increase the use of MDC recreational facilities and historic sites. The Centennial year provides us with an opportunity to formulate long term plans to maximize our resources, to expand educational programs, and to strengthen our commitment to open space and the environment.

Preserving the past... protecting the future.

Join Us

and celebrate the Metropolitan Parks System Centennial. Share in this special year by visiting the many natural, cultural and recreational resources managed by the Metropolitan District Commission (MDC). The Metropolitan Parks System is internationally recognized as America's first regional open space system and today consists of over 16,000 acres of coastline, rivers, parkways, and forested reservations within metropolitan Boston.



These are your parks. Bring your family and friends for a picnic, for a hike in the woods, for a bike ride along a riverbank, and come learn more about this historic park system.

Discover

the distinctive natural features of the Metropolitan Parks. Examine archaeological sites while hiking the wooded trails of the Middlesex Fells or the Blue Hills Reservations. Take in a concert at the Hatch Shell. Smell the salt air and enjoy the newly restored pavilions and surroundings at Revere Beach - the oldest public beach in the United States. Life in the city is often noisy, crowded, and hectic; our parks offer a pleasant change.

Learn

in our open-air classrooms. They provide opportunities to understand the importance of clean air and water, and the critical relationship between ourselves and the environment around us. You can enjoy picnicking at George's Island while exploring the nooks and crannies of the historic Fort Warren; students can study wildlife in Boston's last remaining saltmarsh at Belle Isle Marsh Reservation. A range of educational programs dealing with the ecology, indigenous wildlife, archaeology, and local history are available throughout all your parks.

Play

during this Centennial Year. Try something new! Take up a new sport at an MDC facility. How about a sailing lesson at Community Boating, or learn to row at Community Rowing on the Charles River. The Metropolitan Parks offer year-round recreation and activities: downhill and cross-country skiing, ice skating and ice fishing in winter; sailing, rowing, golfing and tennis in spring, summer and fall; and summer swimming programs at neighborhood pools, local ponds and beaches.

For further information about the Metropolitan Parks System, please call the MDC Centennial Event Hotline at (617) 859-3379.

The Metropolitan District Commission strives to make the park system safe, accessible and attractive for all, but we can only maintain these sites with public support and cooperation. Please do your part by respecting each property and complying with all rules and regulations. Thank you.

Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Metropolitan District Commission

William F. Weld, Governor
A. Paul Cellucci, Lt. Governor
Susan F. Tierney, Secretary, EOEA
M. Ilyas Bhatti, Commissioner

Associate Commissioners
Avril T. Elkort
Robert H. Carr, Jr.
Renee M. Landers
Darryl Settles

Photos courtesy of MDC Archives.

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Metropolitan District Commission
FACILITY GUIDE

"Preserving the past... protecting the future."

The Metropolitan District Commission is a unique multi-service agency with broad responsibilities for the preservation, maintenance and enhancement of the natural, scenic, historic and aesthetic qualities of the environment within the thirty-four cities and towns of metropolitan Boston. As city and town boundaries follow the middle of a river or bisect an important woodland, a metropolitan organization that can manage the entire natural resource as a single entity is essential to its protection.

Charles Eliot, the principle force behind today's MDC.

Since 1893, the Metropolitan District Commission has preserved the region's unique resources and landscape character by acquiring and protecting park lands, river corridors and coastal areas; reclaiming and restoring abused and neglected sites and setting aside areas of great scenic beauty as reservations for the refreshment, recreation and health of the region's residents. This open space is connected by a network of landscaped parkways and bridges that are extensions of the parks themselves.

The Commission is also responsible for a vast watershed and reservoir system, 120,000 acres of land and water resources, that provides pure water from pristine areas to 2.5 million people. These watershed lands are home to many rare and endangered species and comprise the only extensive wilderness areas of Massachusetts.

In exercising ongoing stewardship for these irreplaceable resources and to ensure their preservation for present and future generations, the Commission is commited to: planning, acquiring, designing and safely managing its properties; recognizing that each property is part of a larger dynamic resource system; preserving the natural and cultural diversity of the landscape for the enjoyment of its intrinsic values; providing programs for visitors to these properties to encourage appreciation and involvment with their responsible use; providing facilities for active recreation, healthful exercise, and individual and team athletics; protecting and managing both public and private watershed lands in order to conserve naturally pure water for human consumption.

Boston's regional park system was the culmination of the planning theories of the country's first generation of professionals in the new field of Landscape Architecture, including Robert Morris Copeland, H.W.S. Cleveland and Frederick Law Olmsted. The most active organizers of the new metropolitan parks were Sylvester Baxter,

a journalist from Melrose with a particular interest in European town planning and Charles Eliot, son of the president of Harvard University, who had apprenticed with Olmsted in the 1880's. Eliot became a partner in the firm of Olmsted, Olmsted & Eliot soon after he completed the landmark metropolitan park report of 1893.

The organizational accomplishments of Eliot and Baxter (the organization of the Trustees of Reservations in 1891, the temporary Parks Commission legislation of 1892 and the Metropolitan Park Commission created in 1893) were matched by the energy with which the Metropolitan District Commission acquired the basic lands of the system.

The Parks and Parkways system established in 1893 is widely known as the first metropolitan parks system in the United States and one of America's first successful efforts in regional planning.

In its first eighteen months, the Metropolitan Parks Commission acquired the Beaver Brook and Waverly Oaks properties in Belmont and Waltham and most of the acreage for the Blue Hills, Middlesex Fells and Stony Brook Reservations. By 1897, the year of Eliot's untimely death at the age of 37, the first purchases had been made for reservations along Revere Beach and the Charles River. Takings had also been made for the first five parkways at the Blue Hills, the Fells, Revere Beach, and along the Mystic and Neponset Rivers. Including interest to be paid through 1900 the cost of these acquisitions, totalling some 7,000 acres, was $6,800. These accomplishments were widely celebrated.

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METROPOLITAN PARKS SYSTEM MAP

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Recreational Facilities and Programs

The Metropolitan District Commission's Division of Recreational Facilities and Programs offers a wid variety of activities for all ages, all year long! Along with 20 skating rinks and 17 swimming pools, th MDC maintains hundreds of basketball courts, athletic fields and playgrounds, as well as miles c beautiful beaches. If you would like more information on a certain facility please call one of our distri offices:

Charles District (617) 727-4708

Arlington, Belmont, Boston, Brighton, Cambridge, Charlestown, North End, Somerville, Waltham Watertown, Wellesley and Weston.

Mystic District (617) 662-8370

Chelsea, East Boston, Everett, Lynn, Malden, Medford, Melrose, Nahant, Revere, Saugus, Stoneham Winthrop, Winchester and Wakefield.

Harbor District (617) 727-8865

Dorchester, Hull, Mattapan, Quincy, Roxbury, South Boston and Weymouth.

Neponset District (617) 727-6034

Canton, Cleveland Circle, Dedham, Hyde Park, Jamaica Plain, Milton, Randolph and West Roxbury

Southwest Corridor Park (617) 727-0057

Boston, Back Bay, South End, Roxbury, Jamaica Plain, and Hyde Park.

Permit Information

Permits are required for MDC recreational sites for picnics (groups of 25 or more), athletic field use and special use such as road races, filming, and parades. There is a permit fee.
ALCOHOL IS STRICTLY PROHIBITED ON ALL MDC PROPERTY.

Obtaining a Permit
For a picnic permit or athletic facility permit contact the District Office which has jurisdiction over the area in which you need a permit (listed above). Special Use Permits may be obtained by calling the Recreation Office at (617) 727-7090 for an application.

The application must be submitted at least 6-8 weeks in advance. Alcohol; marking light poles, trees, barrels and sidewalks; open fires; and soliciting money (i.e. entry fees) are **strictly prohibited** on MDC property. Permitees will be responsible to pay for permit fees and staffing if necessary.
Fees are to be paid by check or money order payable to the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

Athletic Fields

Season: Mid-April to the end of October
Lighted Fields-Seven days/week 8:00 a.m. to 11:00 p.m.
Non-Lighted Fields-Seven days/week 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.
FEES: Fees will be assessed to all groups using any type of athletic field or facility except municipally sponsored and youth groups, which shall pay 50% of the fee. (Ex: Little League, Babe Ruth, CYO, Junior and Senior High Schools.) Permits are required for all activities unless otherwise noted.
Please call the District Office for permits and fees.

Charles District 727-4708

BOSTON-LEIDERMAN FIELD, Charles Street, West End (baseball, football, softball)
BELMONT/WALTHAM-WAVERLY OAKS, Trapelo Rd. (softball, basketball, no permit required)
BRIGHTON-DALY RECREATION CENTER, Nonantum Road (football, softball, lighted)
CAMBRIDGE-MAGAZINE BEACH FIELD, Memorial Drive (football, little league, softball)
SOMERVILLE-FOSS PARK, McGrath Hwy. (baseball, basketball, football, little league, soccer)
SOMERVILLE-DRAW SEVEN PARK, Foley Street (soccer)
SOMERVILLE-DILBOY FIELD, Alewife Brook Pkwy. (baseball, basketball, football, little league, soccer)

Mystic District 662-8370

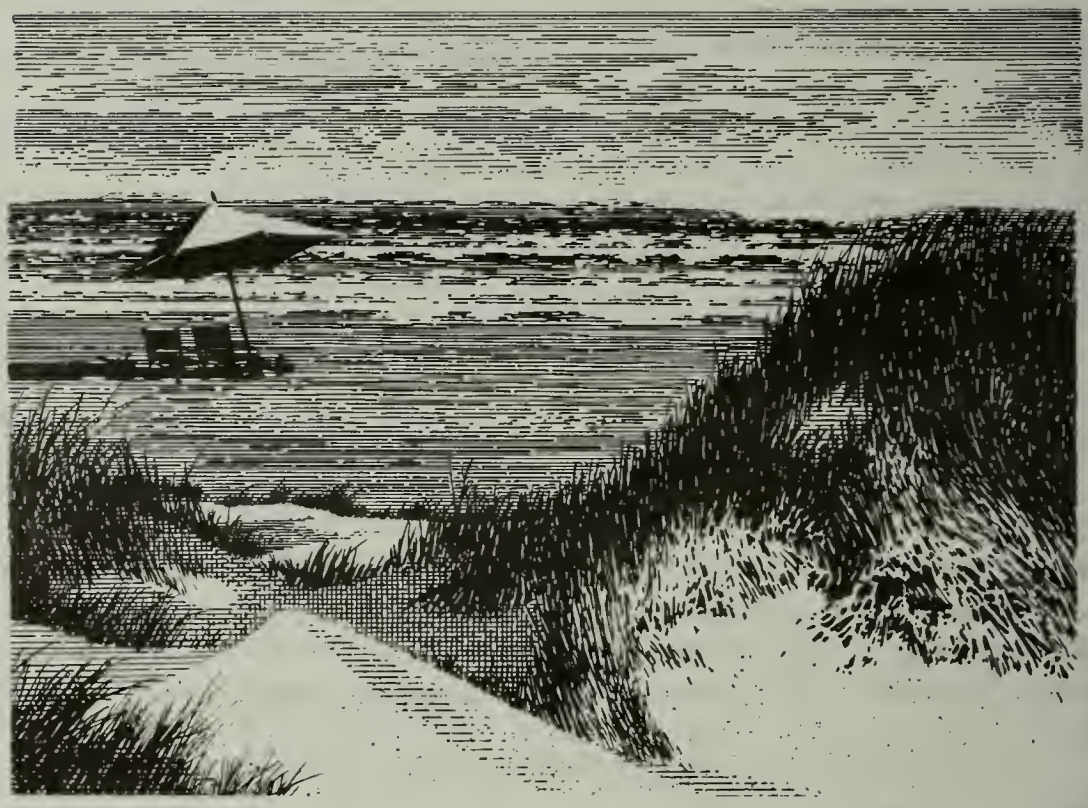
EAST BOSTON-CONSTITUTION BEACH, Orient Heights (softball, handball, basketball, lighted)
EVERETT-ALLIED VETERANS RECREATION CENTER, Elm Street (basketball)
MEDFORD-HORMEL STADIUM, Veterans Mem. Pkwy. (baseball, football, little league, track, rugby, soccer)
NAHANT-MEEHAN LITTLE LEAGUE FIELD, O'CONNOR FIELD, (basketball, little league, handball, tennis)

Harbor District 727-8865

DORCHESTER-McMORROW PLAYGROUND, Victory Road (baseball, little league, softball, basketball)
DORCHESTER-TOOHIG PLAYGROUND, Gallivan Boulevard (softball, little league, basketball)
DORCHESTER-LEAHY RECREATIONAL AREA, Morrisey Boulevard (softball, basketball)
SOUTH BOSTON-EVANS FIELD, Day Boulevard (baseball, football, little league, softball, track)
QUINCY-SHEA LITTLE LEAGUE FIELD, Willard, Street (little league, tennis)

Neponset District 727-6034

DORCHESTER-LOWER MILLS VFW PLAYGROUND, Ventura Street (little league, basketball)
HYDE PARK-KELLY FIELD, Turtle Pond Parkway (baseball, softball, football, soccer, lighted)
HYDE PARK-COLELLA PLAYGROUND, Readville Street (baseball, basketball, little league)
HYDE PARK-CONNELL FIELD, Enneking Parkway (softball, soccer)
HYDE PARK-GELEWITZ FIELD, Turtle Pond Parkway (little league, softball, lighted)
HYDE PARK-MOYNIHAN FIELD, Truman Highway (little league, basketball, lighted)
HYDE PARK-CAMP MEIGS PLAYGROUND, Stanbro Street (little league, softball, basketball)
JAMAICA PLAIN-SOUTHWEST CORRIDOR PARK, Lamartine Street (little league)
MATTAPAN-RYAN FIELD, River Street (softball, tennis, bathhouse)



Bandstands & Music Shells

Free outdoor concerts featuring a wide variety of music and dance performances are available during the summer months.

Concert Series Schedules

Complete schedules of the concert series are available by sending a business-size, self-addressed, stamped envelope to the MDC Recreational Facilities and Programs Division, 20 Somerset Street, Boston, MA 02108. Please indicate bandstand location.
For Hatch Shell updates and information, please call (617) 727-5215.

BOSTON-HATCH MEMORIAL SHELL, Storrow Drive
HYDE PARK-MARTINI SHELL, Truman Parkway
BRIGHTON-PUBLICK THEATRE, Christian A. Herter Park, Soldiers Field Road
CHELSEA-MARY O'MALLEY PARK, Commandant's Way
EAST BOSTON-CONSTITUTION BEACH, Orient Heights Bathhouse
HULL-BERNIE KING PAVILION, Nantasket Beach
JAMAICA PLAIN-STONY BROOK DECK, Southwest Corridor Park
LYNN-RED ROCK, Lynn Shore Drive
MEDFORD-MSGR. JOHN B. CONDON SHELL, Mystic Valley Parkway
MILTON-HOUGHTON'S POND BANDSTAND, Hillside Street, Blue Hills Reservation
QUINCY-CHICKATAWBUT HILL, Chickatawbut Road, Blue Hills Reservation
REVERE-REVERE BEACH BANDSTAND, Revere Beach Boulevard
ROXBURY-MISSION HILL DECK, Southwest Corridor Park
SOUTH BOSTON-MARINE PARK BANDSTAND, Day Boulevard

Beaches

Beaches are open and lifeguards are on duty from late June to early September.

Fresh Water Beaches

MILTON-HOUGHTON'S POND
Blue Hills Reservation, Hillside Street, Routes 128 and 138

SAUGUS-JOHN A.W. PEARCE LAKE
Breakheart Reservation, Forest Street off Lynn Fells Parkway

WINCHESTER-SANDY BEACH, Upper Mystic Lake off Mystic Valley Pkwy.

Salt Water Beaches

BOSTON-LOVELLS ISLAND, Boston Harbor
DORCHESTER-MALIBU BEACH, Morrissey Boulevard
DORCHESTER-SAVIN HILL BEACH, Morrissey Boulevard
DORCHESTER-TENEAN BEACH, Morrissey Boulevard
EAST BOSTON-CONSTITUTION BEACH, Orient Heights
HULL-NANTASKET BEACH, Nantasket Avenue
LYNN-KING'S BEACH, Lynn Shore Drive
LYNN-LYNN BEACH, Lynn Shore Drive
NAHANT-NAHANT BEACH, Nahant Road
QUINCY-WOLLASTON BEACH, Quincy Shore Drive
REVERE-REVERE BEACH, Revere Beach Parkway
REVERE-SHORT BEACH, Winthrop Parkway
SOUTH BOSTON-CARSON BEACH, Day Boulevard
SOUTH BOSTON-CASTLE ISLAND, Day Boulevard
SOUTH BOSTON-CITY POINT, Day Boulevard
SOUTH BOSTON-M STREET BEACH, Day Boulevard
SOUTH BOSTON-PLEASURE BAY, Day Boulevard
WINTHROP-WINTHROP BEACH, Winthrop Parkway

Bicycle Paths

DR. PAUL DUDLEY WHITE CHARLES RIVER BIKE PATH, Boston, Cambridge, Newton, Watertown. Approximately 18-mile circuit between Science Park and Watertown Square.

STONY BROOK RESERVATION BIKE PATH, Turtle Pond Parkway, West Roxbury, Hyde Park. See page 22 for directions.

MYSTIC RIVER RESERVATION BIKE PATH, Somerville and Everett, 3.5 mile-long loop from the Wellington Bridge in Somerville along the Mystic River to beyond the Wellington Bridge in Everett.

PIERRE LALLEMENT BIKE PATH, Southwest Corridor Park, South End/Roxbury, 5 miles from Franklin Park to Copley Place.

Boating

Landing Areas

BOSTON-CHARLES RIVER
Clarendon Street, Back Bay
Hatch Shell, Embankment Road
Pinckney Street, Back Bay
Brooks Street at Nonantum Road, Brighton
Artesani Playground off Soldiers Field Road, Brighton
Charles River Dam at the Museum of Science

BOSTON HARBOR
Georges Island, Lovells Island, Peddocks Island

CAMBRIDGE-CHARLES RIVER
Cambridge Parkway near Longfellow Bridge
Memorial Drive opposite Magazine Street

SOMERVILLE-Blessing of the Bay, Mystic River, Shore Drive near Rt. 93.

SOUTH BOSTON, Kelly's Landing, Day Boulevard

WATERTOWN-CHARLES RIVER, Watertown Square

Launching Areas

BOSTON, CHARLES RIVER-Daly Recreational Center,
Nonantum Road, Brighton/Newton.

CAMBRIDGE, CHARLES RIVER-Magazine Beach off Memorial Drive (cartop boats only)

MEDFORD, MYSTIC RIVER-Wellington Yacht Club

NAHANT, NAHANT BEACH-Harbor side

Camping

BOSTON HARBOR-LOVELLS AND PEDDOCKS ISLANDS
A permit to camp on Lovells and Peddocks Islands must be obtained by writing to the MDC Reservations and Historic Sites, 98 Taylor Street, Dorchester. Pets and alcohol are **not** allowed. Free water taxi service leaves Georges Island daily and visits Lovells, Peddocks, Gallops, Grape and Bumpkin Islands. For further information about the Harbor Islands State Park call 727-5290. (See page 27 for ferry info and page18 for permit info.)

SAUGUS-CAMP NIHAN
Walnut Street, Route 129. This 60+ acre site adjacent to the Breakheart Reservation provides overnight camping for supervised youth groups belonging to non-profit organizations. The facilities at Camp Nihan include: 4 cabins with bunks housing 12 persons each, 6 campsites (each campsite can accommodate 25-30 people) and the first four campsites have charcoal grills, swimming (pond), hiking, fishing, canoeing, cross-country skiing. Call (617) 727-5250 for permit information. (See page 20 for directions to Breakheart Reservation.)

Canoeing

Canoe Launches

NEWTON-RIVERSIDE CANOE LAUNCH, Charles River

NEEDHAM-CANOE LAUNCH, Charles River, Kendrick Street

NEEDHAM-VILLAGE FALLS, Charles River, Redwing Bay

WELLESLEY-WESTGATE CANOE LAUNCH, Charles River

WESTON-RIVERSIDE RECREATION AREA
Charles River, Route 128, Exit 23

Canoe Rentals & Instruction

NEWTON-CHARLES RIVER RECREATION INC. CANOE AND KAYAK INSTRUCTION
2401 Commonwealth Ave. (617) 965-5110
Season: Early April to late October. Weekdays, 10:00 a.m. to dusk; weekends, 9:00 a.m. to dusk.
Many levels of instruction are offered for canoes, kayaks, and rowing.
Please call for more information and availability.

Fishing

Fresh Water Fishing

BELCHERTOWN-QUABBIN RESERVOIR
25,216 acre water area, located 65 miles west of Boston. See page 32 for more information.

BELMONT-MILLS POND, Beaver Brook Reservation, Mill Street
Also offered-children's fishing area. See page 19 for directions.

BOSTON TO WESTON, CHARLES RIVER, Shore Fishing

CLINTON-WACHUSETT RESERVOIR
Thirty-six miles of shoreline. See page 32 for more information.

HYDE PARK, STONY BROOK RESERVATION, Turtle Pond. See page 22 for directions.

MALDEN-FELLSMERE POND, Fellsway East, Children's Fishing

MEDFORD-QUARTER MILE POND
Middlesex Fells Reservation, Woodland Road. See page 21 for directions.

MILTON-CANTON
BLUE HILL RIVER, Blue Hills Reservation
HOUGHTON'S POND, Hillside Street
HULTMAN'S POND, Blue Hills Parkway and Canton Street
PINE TREE BROOK, Harland Street and Unquity Road
PONKAPOAG POND, Randolph Street

NEEDHAM-CUTLER PARK, Kendrick Street

QUINCY-ST. MORITZ POND, Off Furnace Brook Parkway

QUINCY-OLD HARBOR PARK, Harbor Point

SAUGUS-PEARCE AND SILVER LAKES
Breakheart Reservation, Lynn Fells Parkway near Route 1.

STONEHAM-DARK HOLLOW POND
Middlesex Fells Reservation, Rt. 28

SOUTHBORO-SUDBURY RESERVOIR
Thirty-eight miles of shore fishing. See page 32 for more information.

WINCHESTER-ABERJONA RIVER
Middlesex Fells Reservation, Mystic Valley Parkway

WINCHESTER/MEDFORD-MYSTIC LAKES
MYSTIC RIVER RESERVATION, Mystic Valley Parkway

Salt Water Fishing

BOSTON HARBOR-GEORGES, LOVELLS and PEDDOCCKS ISLANDS

LYNN-LYNN FISHING PIER, Lynnway at General Edwards Bridge

NAHANT-NAHANT BEACH, Nahant Causeway

QUINCY-BLACK'S CREEK, Quincy Shore Drive, (Surf casting)

REVERE-REVERE BEACH, Revere Beach Boulevard

SOUTH BOSTON-JOHN J. MC CORKLE FISHING PIER, Day Boulevard

SOUTH BOSTON-CITY POINT, Rotunda, Day Boulevard, (Pier Fishing)

Ice Fishing

CHARLES RIVER LAKES DISTRICT (only at designated areas)
For MDC permit information, call 727-7090 or Bears Den Bait Shop, Waltham (617) 647-0404.

Foot Trails & Bridle Paths

Trail maps are available at the Reservation Headquarters.

BLUE HILLS RESERVATION (617) 698-1802
Braintree, Canton, Milton, Randolph and Quincy. See page 20 for directions.

MIDDLESEX FELLS RESERVATION (617) 662-5214
Malden, Medford, Melrose, Stoneham, and Winchester. See page 21 for directions.

BREAKHEART RESERVATION (617) 233-0834
Saugus, Wakefield, See page 20 for directions.

STONYBROOK RESERVATION (617) 698-1802
Hyde Park, West Roxbury. See page 22 for directions.

Golf Courses

CANTON
PONKAPOAG GOLF COURSE, (617) 828-4242.
Season: Early April to early December
Hours: 5:30am to dusk, seven days per week.

Ponkapoag Golf Course, home of the New England CYO Tournament and the New England Junior Golf Tournament, is one of the few 36-hole facilities in Massachusetts. Course #1 is long, narrow and of championship caliber. Course #2 is average length, wide, and easily adaptable for the average golfer.
Features: Thirty-six holes, practice green, full driving range, snack bar, full pro shop, lessons.
Route 138 off Rte. 128, Exit 2.

WESTON
LEO J. MARTIN MEMORIAL GOLF COURSE, (617) 894-4903.
Season: Early April to early December
Hours: 5:30am to dusk, seven days per week.

The Leo J. Martin Golf Course, home of Ouimet Museum and Foundation and the Mass. Golf Association, began play in the 1930's. During the winter months, the Martin is transformed into the most complete cross-country ski facility in eastern Massachusetts
Features: Eighteen holes, practice green, full driving range, snack bar, full pro shop, lessons.
Route 128 South, Exit 54 to Route 30, right on Concord Road. Route 128 North, Exit 51 to Route 30, left on Park Road.

Museums & Historic Sites

BOSTON-FORT WARREN, Georges Island
This military fort defended Boston Harbor in all United States wars, utilized as a prison during the Civil War for Confederate military and civil personnel. See p. 27 for ferry information.

BOSTON-FORT INDEPENDENCE, Castle Island
Continuous fortification since 1634. Present fort built 1801. See page 29 for more information and directions to Castle Island.

HULL-FORT REVERE
Telegraph Hill, (617) 727-5290
Originally called Fort Independence, this site included a pentagonal fortification with twenty-two cannon. For more information and directions see page 29.

MILTON-TRAILSIDE MUSEUM
Blue Hills Reservation, 1904 Canton Ave. (617) 333-0690
Live animal exhibits and other displays showing the natural history of the Blue Hills area. See page 20 for directions to Blue Hills Reservation.

QUINCY-THE QUINCY HOMESTEAD
34 Butler Road, corner of Hancock Street, (617) 472-5117. Historic homestead built in 1706 with furnishings of the 1822 period.

QUINCY-LIGHTSHIP "NANTUCKET I" WLV 612
Marina Bay, (617) 727-5290 Open seasonally May to October, hours vary
One of the MDC's newest facilities, the Nantucket I WLV 612 was the last U.S. lightship in commission. See page 29 for more information and directions.

WEST ROXBURY-BROOK FARM HISTORIC SITE
Baker Street, 1/3 mile west of VFW Parkway. Open year-round, dawn to dusk. (617) 698-1802
This National Historic Landmark is 179 acres of rolling fields, woodlands, and wetlands. See page 24 for more information and directions.

Observation Towers

EAST BOSTON-BELLE ISLE MARSH (tower - 16 feet)
Views of the marsh, Beachmont, Winthrop, and the Boston Skyline. See page 27 for directions.

CANTON-ELLIOT TOWER (elevation - 640 Feet) Blue Hills Reservation. See p. 19 for direction

MEDFORD-WRIGHT'S TOWER (elevation - 243 Feet)
Pine Hill, Middlesex Fells Reservation
Excellent views of the Boston skyline, Harbor Islands, Mystic River Valley and the Middlesex Fells Reservation. See page 21 for directions.

MEDFORD-MYSTIC RIVER RESERVATION TOWER (tower - 16 Feet)
Mystic Valley Parkway. Views of the lower Mystic River basin. See page 25 for directions.

MILTON-CHICKATAWBUT TOWER (elevation - 504 Feet)
Blue Hills Reservation, see page 20 for directions.

STONEHAM-BEAR HILL TOWER (elevation - 317 Feet), Middlesex Fells Reservation. Views north to Cape Ann, New Hampshire and west to Mt. Wachusett. See page 21 for directions.

WESTON-NORUMBEGA TOWER (elevation - 110 Feet) Charles River, Rte. 128

Playgrounds

Permits are not required at any playground.

ARLINGTON-Mystic Valley Parkway near High Street
BELMONT/WALTHAM-WAVERLY OAKS, Trapelo Rd. (wading pool)
BELMONT-MILL POND-Beaver Brook Reservation, Mill Street
BOSTON-BERKELEY STREET, Storrow Memorial Embankment, Back Bay
BOSTON-DEERFIELD STREET, Storrow Memorial Embankment, Back Bay
BOSTON-GRANBY STREET, Storrow Memorial Embankment, Back Bay
BOSTON-HEREFORD STREET, Storrow Memorial Embankment, Back Bay
BOSTON-PINCKNEY STREET, Storrow Memorial Embankment, Back Bay
BOSTON-UNION BOAT HOUSE, Storrow Memorial Embankment, Back Bay
BOSTON-CHARLESBANK PARK, Storrow Memorial Embankment, Back Bay
BRIGHTON-RICHARD T. ARTESANI PLAYGROUND, Soldiers Field Road
BRIGHTON-JAMES F. REILLY PLAYGROUND, Cleveland Circle
CAMBRIDGE-MAGAZINE BEACH TOT LOT, Memorial Drive
CAMBRIDGE-MURPHY'S TOT LOT, Greenough Boulevard
DEDHAM-RIVERDALE PARK, Bridge Street
DORCHESTER-MALIBU BEACH PLAYGROUND, Morrisey Boulevard
DORCHESTER-LOWER MILLS VFW MEMORIAL POST, Ventura Street
DORCHESTER-PHILLIP McMORROW PLAYGROUND, Victory Road
DORCHESTER-REV. WILLIAM F. TOOHIG PLAYGROUND, Gallivan Boulevard
DORCHESTER-JAMES E. LEAHY RECREATIONAL AREA, Tenean Beach, Morrisey Boulevard
EAST BOSTON-CONSTITUTION BEACH, Orient Heights
EVERETT-ALLIED VETERANS MEMORIAL RECREATION CENTER, Elm Street

HULL-NANTASKET BEACH TOT LOT, Nantasket Avenue
HYDE PARK-PAUL J. COLELLA MEMORIAL PLAYGROUND, Readville Street
HYDE PARK-JOHN H. DOOLEY PLAYGROUND, Reservation Road
HYDE PARK-WILLIAM A. DOYLE MEMORIAL PLAYGROUND, River Street
HYDE PARK-LAWLER PLAYGROUND, Sunnyside Street
HYDE PARK-JOHN J. MOYNIHAN MEMORIAL PLAYGROUND, Truman Highway
HYDE PARK-JOHN F. THOMPSON CENTER FOR THE HANDICAPPED, Smithfield Road
JAMAICA PLAIN-ANSON STREET TOT LOT, Southwest Corridor Park
JAMAICA PLAIN-ARMORY STREET TOT LOT, Southwest Corridor Park
JAMAICA PLAIN-BOYNTON STREET/McBRIDE STREET TOT LOT, Southwest Corridor Park
JAMAICA PLAIN-EVERETT STREET TOT LOT, Southwest Corridor Park
JAMAICA PLAIN-GREEN STREET/LAMARTINE STREET TOT LOT, Southwest Corridor Park
JAMAICA PLAIN-JOSEPH E. JOHNSON MEMORIAL PLAYGROUND
JAMAICA PLAIN-LAWNDALE TERRACE TOT LOT, Southwest Corridor Park
JAMAICA PLAIN-SPAULDING STREET TOT LOT, Southwest Corridor Park
MATTAPAN-MSGR. FRANCIS A. RYAN MEMORIAL PLAYGROUND,River Street
MATTAPAN-CHARLES R. KENNEDY MEMORIAL PARK, Edgewater Drive (passive park)
MEDFORD-WEST MEDFORD PLAYGROUND, Mystic River Road
MILTON-HOUGHTON'S POND, Blue Hills Reservation, Hillside Street
NAHANT-NAHANT BEACH TOT LOT near parking lot on the beach
QUINCY-WILLIAM R. CADDY MEMORIAL PARK, Quincy Shore Drive
REVERE-GEORGE W. SULLIVAN TOT LOT, Revere Beach Boulevard at Revere Street
ROXBURY-MISSION HILL DECK TOT LOT, Southwest Corridor Park
SAUGUS-PEARCE LAKE, Breakheart Reservation
SAUGUS-PARCHER PARK, Breakheart Reservation
SOMERVILLE-DILBOY FIELD PLAYGROUND, Alewife Brook Parkway
SOMERVILLE-JOHN J. MURPHY, JR. MEMORIAL PLAYGROUND, Foss Park, McGrath Hwy.
SOUTH BOSTON-CASTLE ISLAND PLAYGROUND, Day Boulevard
SOUTH BOSTON-MARINE PARK PLAYGROUND, Day Boulevard
SOUTH END-COSMOPOLITAN PLAYGROUND, Southwest Corridor Park
WATERTOWN-GREENOUGH BOULEVARD PLAYGROUND near Watertown Square
WINCHESTER-SANDY BEACH PLAYGROUND, Mystic Valley Parkway

Running Paths

BOSTON-LEE POOL RUNNING CENTER, approximately 18 miles.
Showers and changing area available. Open mid-April through mid-October, weekdays 7:00am to 6:00pm, weekends 10:00am to 6:00pm. Located across from Mass. General Hospital on Charles Street. For more information call (617) 727-4708.

BRIGHTON, CLEVELAND CIRCLE, 1.6 miles

HULL, NANTASKET BEACH, 3 miles

LYNN/NAHANT BEACH, 5 miles

SAUGUS, BREAKHEART RESERVATION, 3.1 miles

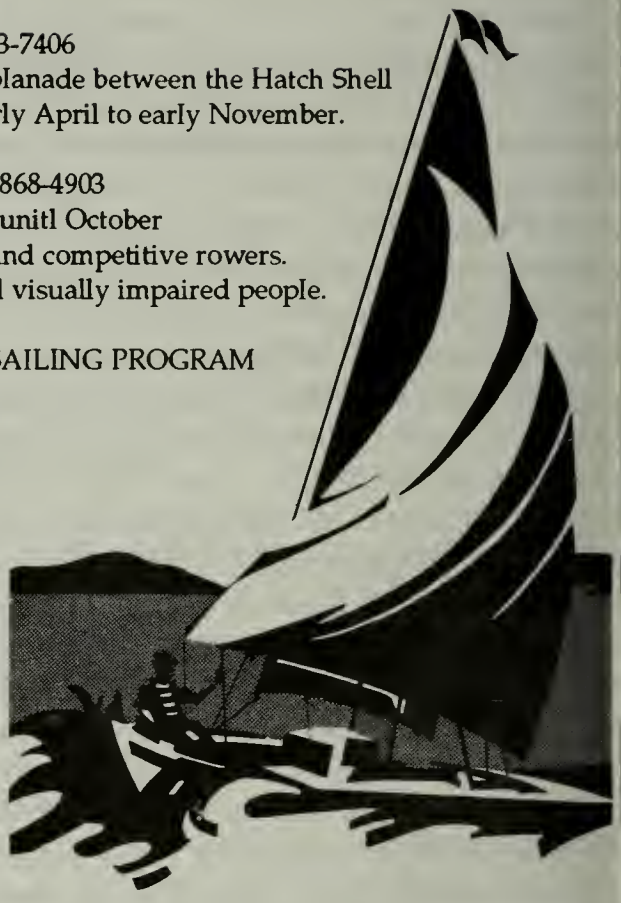
SOUTH BOSTON, CASTLE ISLAND, 6.2 miles

Sailing and Rowing

BOSTON - COMMUNITY BOATING, (617) 523-7406
21 Embankment Road on the Charles River Esplanade between the Hatch Shell and the Longfellow Bridge. Programs from early April to early November.

BRIGHTON - COMMUNITY ROWING, (617) 868-4903
Daly Rink, Nonantum Road. Open from April unitl October
Instruction offered for beginners, recreational and competitive rowers.
Special programs for physically challenged and visually impaired people.

SOUTH BOSTON - HARRY McDONOUGH SAILING PROGRAM
Day Boulevard, Castle Island, (617) 268-8556
Open from late May to early October.
Special programs for visually impaired people.



Skating Rinks

Rinks are open from mid-November to mid-March.
Call the district office for hours and ice rental information.
(C) Concession (R) Skate Rentals (S) Skate Sharpening (L) Lessons

Charles District (617) 727-4708

BOSTON-STERITI MEMORIAL RINK, Commercial Street, 523-9327
BRIGHTON-DALY MEMORIAL RINK, Nonantum Road., 527-1741 (C,R,S, L)
CAMBRIDGE-SIMONI MEMORIAL RINK, Gore Street, 354-9523
CHARLESTOWN-EMMONS-HORRIGAN-O'NEILL MEMORIAL RINK
Rutherford Avenue, 242-9728 (C)
SOMERVILLE-VETERANS MEMORIAL RINK, Somerville Avenue, 623-3523 (C,S)
WALTHAM-VETERANS MEMORIAL RINK, Totten Pond Road, 893-9409 (C, L)

Mystic District (617) 662-8370

EAST BOSTON-PORAZZO MEMORIAL RINK, Constitution Beach, 567-9571 (C, R)
EVERETT-ALLIED VETERAN'S MEMORIAL RINK, Elm Street, 389-8684 (C)
LYNN-CONNERY MEMORIAL RINK, Shepard Street, 599-9474 (C)
MEDFORD-LoCONTE MEMORIAL RINK, Veterans Parkway, 395-9594 (C,R,S)
MEDFORD-FLYNN MEMORIAL RINK, Woodland Road, 395-8492 (C,R,S, L)
REVERE-CRONIN MEMORIAL RINK, Revere Beach Pkwy, 284-9491 (C, S, L)

Harbor District (617) 727-8865

DORCHESTER-DEVINE MEMORIAL RINK, Morrissey Boulevard 436-4356 (C,R)
QUINCY-SHEA MEMORIAL RINK, Willard Street 472-9325 (C,R,S,L)
SOUTH BOSTON-MURPHY MEMORIAL RINK, Day Boulevard 269-7060. (C,R,S)
WEYMOUTH-CONNELL MEMORIAL RINK, Broad Street 335-2090 (C)

Neponset District (617) 727-6034

BRIGHTON-REILLY MEMORIAL RINK, Cleveland Circle, 277-7822 (C, R, S, L)
HYDE PARK-BAJKO MEMORIAL RINK, Turtle Pond Parkway, 364-9188 (C, L)
MILTON-ULIN MEMORIAL RINK, Unquity Road, 696-9869 (C, S, L)
WEST ROXBURY-BRYAN MEMORIAL RINK, VFW Parkway, 323-9512 (L)

Ski Trails

Cross Country

CHARLES RIVER RECREATION INC. CROSS-COUNTRY SKIING (617) 891-6575

Open seven days a week till 10:00 p.m. Sundays until 6:00 p.m. Located at the MDC's Martin Golf Course, 20 minutes from downtown Boston just off the Mass Pike off Route 128, or a 20 minute walk from the MBTA Riverside Station.

Lighted, groomed trails, rentals, sales of new and used equipment, refreshments, showers, lockers, equipment repairs and maintenance, and reduced group rates

Beginner and intermediate lessons are available. For information on schedules and fees, please call 891-6575.

MIDDLESEX FELLS CROSS-COUNTRY SKI TRAIL
Middlesex Fells Reservation, (617) 662-5214

Created by *Harvard Community Health Plan* and the MDC, this free, six-mile trail consists of two loops with a variety of levels. Bulletin boards, maps and trail markers delineate the route. Trailheads are located at the Sheepfold and Bellevue Pond parking lots. The public is welcome during daylight hours. Free trails maps are available. (See page 21 for directions to Middlesex Fells Reservation.)

BLUE HILLS RESERVATION CROSS-COUNTRY SKI TRAIL
Blue Hills Reservation, Milton/Canton, (617)698-1802

Open seven days a week, dawn until dusk. Bulletin boards, amps and trail markers delineate the route. The public is welcome during daylight hours. For more information and trail maps, call the reservation headquarters. (See page 19 for directions.)

Downhill

BLUE HILLS SKI AREA, Blue Hills Reservation, Milton/Canton
Ski School-Tickets, 828-5090 Ski Shop, 828-7300
Ski Conditions, 828-5070 Office, 828-7490
Double chair lifts, snow making, seven slopes, ski patrol, rentals, night skiing, ski shop, ski school, restaurant, and reduced group rates.
(See p. 19 for directions.)

Swimming Pools

Pools are open from late June to early September unless otherwise noted.
Please call the District Office for more information.

Charles District (617) 727-4708

BOSTON-LEE MEMORIAL POOL, Charles Street, West End, 523-9746
BRIGHTON-BRIGHTON/ALLSTON POOL, North Beacon St., 254-2965
CAMBRIDGE-McCREHAN MEMORIAL POOL, Alewife Brook Parkway 354-9154
CAMBRIDGE-VETERANS MEMORIAL POOL, Memorial Drive, 354-9381
SOMERVILLE-DILBOY FIELD MEMORIAL POOL, Alewife Brook Parkway, 623-9321
SOMERVILLE-LATTA BROS. MEMORIAL POOL, McGrath Highway, 623-9174
WALTHAM-CONNORS MEMORIAL POOL, River St. 899-0106
WATERTOWN-DEALTRY MEMORIAL POOL, Pleasant Street 923-0073

Mystic District (617) 662-8370

CHELSEA-VIETNAM VETS. MEMORIAL POOL, Carter Street, 884-9630
EVERETT-ALLIED VETS. MEMORIAL POOL, Elm Street, 389-9401
MALDEN-HOLLAND MEMORIAL POOL, Mountain Avenue, 324-9350
STONEHAM-HALL MEMORIAL POOL, North Border Rd. 438-9888

Harbor District (617) 727-8865

ROXBURY-CASS MEMORIAL POOL, Washington Street, 445-9519
WEYMOUTH-CONNELL MEMORIAL POOL, Broad Street 335-2090.
Both public swimming and group rentals are offered at this year-round swimming pool. Hot and cold showers are available. Programs include: handicapped swimming, lessons, lifesaving classes, lap swimming, water polo, mom & tot swim, aqua aerobics, and special events.

Neponset District (617) 727-6034

BRIGHTON-REILLY MEMORIAL POOL, Cleveland Circle, 277-7822
HYDE PARK-OLSEN MEMORIAL POOL, Turtle Pond Parkway, 364-9731
W. ROXBURY-PHELAN MEMORIAL POOL, VFW Parkway, 322-9512 (Handicap provisions)

Spray Pools

BOSTON-Lee Memorial Pool at Artesani Playground
CAMBRIDGE-McCrehan Memorial Pool at Magazine Beach
EVERETT-Allied Veterans Memorial Pool, Elm Street
HYDE PARK-Moynihan Playground, Truman Highway
HYDE PARK-Olsen Pool, Turtle Pond Parkway
JAMAICA PLAIN-Stony Brook Deck, Southwest Corridor Park
JAMAICA PLAIN-Johnson Playground, Green and Lamartine Streets
ROXBURY-Mission Hill Deck, Southwest Corridor Park
SOMERVILLE-Dilboy Memorial Pool, Alewife Brook Parkway
SOMERVILLE-Foss Park, McGrath Highway at Broadway
STONEHAM-Hall Memorial Pool, North Border Road
WATERTOWN-Dealtry Memorial Pool,Pleasant Street

Tennis Courts

Tennis Courts are open from dawn to dusk. Lighted courts are open until 10:00pm.
(#) Number of courts.

BELMONT/WALTHAM-WAVERLY OAKS, Beaver Brook Reservation (2)
BOSTON-NORTH END PARK, Commercial Street, (2)
BOSTON-CHARLESBANK PARK, Charles Street, (4) (lighted)
CHELSEA-MARY O'MALLEY PARK, Commandant's Way (2)
DEDHAM-RIVERDALE PARK, Bridge Street (1)
DORCHESTER-TENEAN BEACH, Conley Street, (1)
EAST BOSTON-CONSTITUTION BEACH, Orient Heights, (2)
EVERETT-ALLIED VETERANS RECREATION CENTER, Elm Street (2)
HYDE PARK-MARTINI SHELL, Truman Parkway, (2)
HYDE PARK-WEIDER PLAYGROUND, Dale Street, (2) (lighted)
HYDE PARK-DOOLEY PLAYGROUND, Reservation Road, (2)
JAMAICA PLAIN-STONY BROOK DECK, Southwest Corridor Park (2)
MATTAPAN-RYAN PLAYGROUND, River Street (1)
MEDFORD-HORMEL STADIUM, Vets. Memorial Pkwy. (4) (lighted)
MILTON-HOUGHTON'S POND RECREATION CENTER, Route 128, (1)
NAHANT-NAHANT BEACH, Nahant Beach Parkway (5)
QUINCY-Willard Street at Shea Rink (2)
ROXBURY-BROMLEY-HEATH DECK, Southwest Corridor Park (1)
ROXBURY-MISSION HILL DECK, Southwest Corridor Park (2)
SOMERVILLE-GEORGE DILBOY FIELD, Alewife Brook Pkwy (2)
SOMERVILE-SAXTON J. FOSS PARK, McGrath Highway at Broadway (2)
SOUTH BOSTON-MARINE PARK, Day Boulevard, (1) (lighted)
WATERTOWN-CANALOUGA PARK, Pleasant Street (1)

Thompson Center

Smithfield Road and Turtle Pond Parkway, Hyde Park (617) 361-6161

Formally dedicated on July 11, 1980, this playground facility is specifically designed for handicapped and special needs people and is available for individuals and groups. Please call for hours and reservations.
Features: Swings, slides, stocked artificial pond, mini-amphitheater, picnic area, trails, sand box, observation tower, service building and appropriately designed restrooms.

Zoos

FRANKLIN PARK ZOO
Blue Hill Avenue at Columbia Road in Dorchester, (617) 442-2002

WALTER D. STONE MEMORIAL ZOO
Pond Street, Stoneham (617) 438-8420

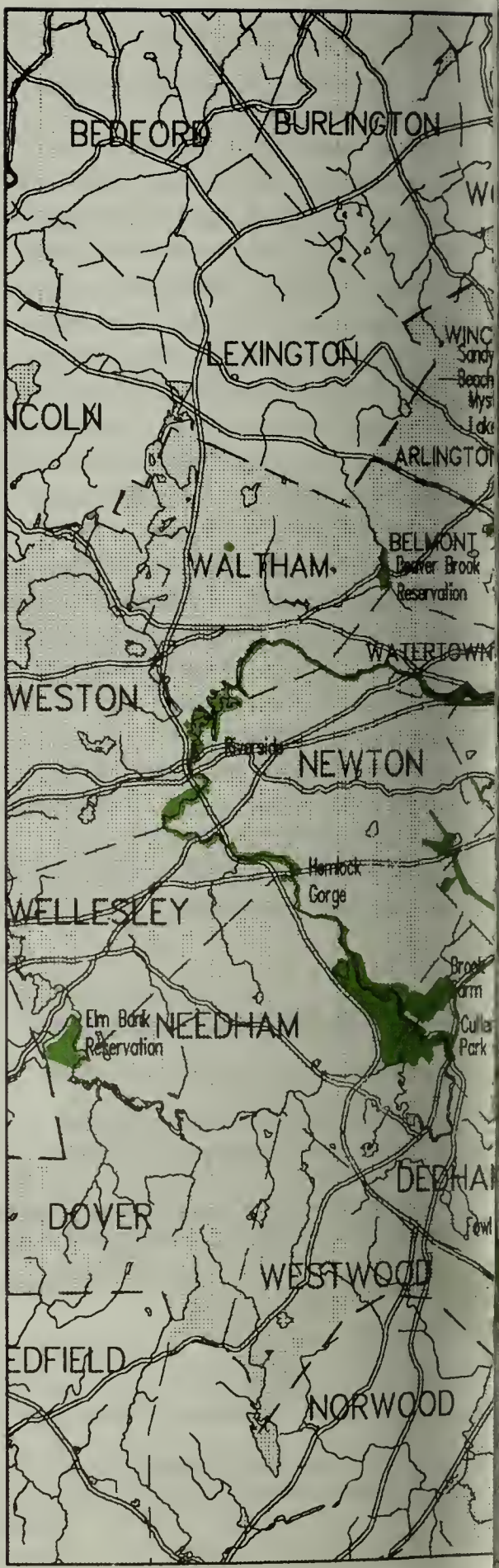
Metropolitan District Commission

During the past one hundred years, the Metropolitan Parks System has grown in leaps and bounds; from the first open space acquisition of Beaver Brook Reservation in 1893, to our newest addition Rumney Marsh Reservation.

Continuing to perpetuate the ideas of Charles Eliot, the MDC maintains beachfront property along the bay, land along the Charles, Mystic and Neponset Rivers and high ground throughout the area . Along with these open spaces, the MDC has created a series of parkways, built and maintained with aesthetics in mind to make travel between the parks easy and enjoyable.

Today the MDC preserves nearly 15,000 thousand acres of reservations, 25 miles of ocean beaches, 84 miles of riverbank property, 700 lane miles of parkways, and numerous recreational facilities and historic sites.

The Metropolitan District Commission strives to make the parks system safe, accessible, and attractive for all, but we can only maintain these sites with public support and cooperation. Please do your part by respecting each property and complying with all rules and regulations. Thank you.



Metropolitan Parks System Reservations, Recreational Facilities and Parkways

Preserving the past... protecting the future

MDC

Metropolitan Parks System

1893 1993

WAKEFIELD
Breakheart Reservation
SALEM
STONEHAM
SAUGUS
LYNN
SWAMPSCOTT
Middlesex Fells Reservation
Rumney Marshes
MELROSE
Nahant Beach Reservation
NAHANT
MALDEN
REVERE
Revere Beach Reservation
EVERETT
SOMERVILLE
CHELSEA
Belle Isle Marsh Reservation
WINTHROP
Winthrop Beach
Castle Island
Old Harbor Reservation
Lovells Is.
Georges Is.
BOSTON
Dorchester Shores Reservation
Boston Harbor Islands
HULL
Peddocks Is.
Wollaston Beach
Nantasket Beach
Stony Brook Reservation
Neponset River Reservation
Quincy Quarries
QUINCY
Squantum Neck
MILTON
HINGHAM
Blue Hills Reservation
BRAINTREE
WEYMOUTH
RANDOLPH
CANTON
NORWEL

Reservations and Historic Sites

The Metropolitan District Commission's Division of Reservations and Historic Sites preserves open space in and around the metropolitan Boston area. The reservations protect three general ecosystems:

The **WOODLAND RESERVATIONS** encompass the high hills and rocky outcroppings as well as fine examples of New England forest.

The **RIVER RESERVATIONS** protect the major freshwater streams and associated wetlands of the area, helping to assure water quality and river habitat.

The **COASTAL RESERVATIONS** protect the barrier beaches, coastal wetlands and estuary habitats while providing public access to the shore and the Boston Harbor Islands.

This guide will take you through all the various types of reservations and explain the history and unique diversity of each. Natural and cultural history programs are available at many of the reservations to educate the public about this fragile ecosystem.

Permit Information

Permits are required at MDC Reservations for picnics (groups of 25 or more); camping at Lovells and Peddocks Islands; and group visits. There is a permit fee. Camp Nihan in Breakheart Reservation is available (for non-profit groups only) and there is a fee per cabin, per night. ALCOHOL IS STRICTLY PROHIBITED ON ALL MDC PROPERTY.

Obtaining a Permit

Payment, along with the following information is to be sent to the appropriate office (listed below) at least 10 days in advance of desired visit. (Attn: Permit Clerk) Fees are to be paid by check or money order payable to the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

A letter must be submitted with the following information:

• Name of group, telephone number and address. • Person responsible for group while in the reservation. • Date for permit. • Name of reservation and specific location. • Arrival and departure times. • Number in group, # of adults, # of children, # of tents (if applicable)

• For islands: Boat line or name and MS# of private boats.

North Region (617) 662-5214

One Wicklow Street, Malden, MA 02148

Includes the following reservations: Beaver Brook, Belle Isle Marsh, Rumney Marsh, Breakheart (Camp Nihan), Middlesex Fells, Mystic River, Forest Grove, and Lynn/Nahant Beach.

Harbor Region (617) 727-5290

98 Taylor Street, Dorchester, MA 02122

Includes the following reservations: Georges, Lovells, and Peddocks Islands, Castle Island, Fort Revere, Lightship Nantucket, and Wollaston Beach.

South Region (617) 698-1802

695 Hillside Street, Milton, MA 02186

Includes the following reservations: Blue Hills, Quincy Quarries, Southwest Corridor Park, Stony Brook, Cutler Park, Brook Farm, Hammond Pond, Hemlock Gorge, Elm Bank, and Village Falls Park.

WOODLAND RESERVATIONS

Beaver Brook Reservation

Mill Street, Belmont/Waltham (617) 484-6357

Open year-round, dawn to dusk.

The first reservation to be set aside by the Metropolitan Parks Commission (later the MDC) in 1893, Beaver Brook Reservation is 59 acres of open fields, wetlands and woodlands. Ponds, fields, marsh, and a cascading waterfall make the park's north section a delightful place to walk or picnic. The more developed south section features recreational amenities of ballfields and a tot-lot.

Beaver Brook's historic significance is amplified by reminders of its past, including the remains of a nineteenth century fulling mill, the historic Plympton House (c. 1835) and a monument to the long-gone Waverly Oaks, perhaps the most famous trees of the 1890's.

Free Programs

Natural history programs offered at Beaver Brook cover topics such as wildlife, the once majestic Waverly Oaks, and the ecosystems of ponds, wetlands and woodlands. Beaver Brook's cultural history is highlighted in programs given at the park (All programs subject to staffing.)

Services and Facilities

Restrooms, first aid, information, ballfield, bicycle path, fishing, picnic area, tot lot.

Directions

MBTA: Red Line to Harvard Station. MBTA-Bus #73, Waverly Square (20 minutes). Exit at Mill St. onto Trapelo Rd. Park is located on either side of Trapelo Rd. Headquarters is on Mill St., the first house on the left. By Car: From Harvard Sq., take Mt. Auburn St. out of Square. Turn right onto Belmont St. At the light, take Trapelo Rd. to Mill St., or take Rt. 2 to Winter St., Belmont. left onto Concord Ave, 100 yards more bear right onto Mill St., entrance is right, or follow Rt. 60 (Pleasant St) until it meets Trapelo Rd., 500 yards on the left is the Waverly Oaks southern section, or take Rt 128 to 28A, approx. 4 miles to Mill St., entrance on left.

Blue Hills Reservation

Hillside Street, Milton, (617) 698-1802

Open year-round dawn to dusk.

Blue Hills Reservation (5,800 acres) adjoins Fowl Meadow Reservation (894 acres) to make up the largest open space within thirty-five miles of Boston. Its varied landscape provides many recreational and educational opportunities. The woodland reservation contains hundreds of different varieties of trees, shrubs and wildflowers that are home to a great diversity of wildlife, some of which are rare to Massachusetts.

The reservation boasts twenty hilltops that range in elevation from 259 feet to the 635 foot Great Blue Hill, the highest point along the Atlantic Coast, south of Maine. Enriching the reservation are more than 50 prehistoric sites, 16 historic structures listed in the National Register of Historic Places, and a National Historic Landmark - the Blue Hills Meteorological Observatory.

On Route 138, the Trailside Museum, operated for the MDC by Massachusetts Audubon Society, houses excellent exhibits of the reservation's natural and cultural history and offers a wide variety of public programs (see page 9). Ponkapoag Golf Course, also within the reservation on Route 138, is an outstanding 36-hole course. Downhill skiing on man-made snow is seasonally available on the face of Great Blue Hill.

continued

Free Programs

Visitor Services staff offer interpretive programs that focus on the area's natural and cultural history, from prehistoric times to present day. Discussions, walks, workshops, and special events are presented year-round on a wide array of topics including wildlife, recreational activities, Native American life and resource management. (All programs subject to staffing.)

Services and Facilities

Restrooms, bathhouse, first aid, information, handicap access, concession, ballfield, bandstand, bicycling, horseback riding, canoeing, fishing, golf course, hiking, observation tower, picnic area, skating rink, cross-country skiing, downhill skiing, swimming, tennis.

Directions

MBTA: West Area-Red Line to Ashmont Station, high speed line to Mattapan, take Canton and Blue Hills bus to Trailside Museum. For Houghton's Pond area, stay on bus and exit at Hillside St. at Howard Johnson's. Cross at light and walk one mile east on Hillside. Central Area-Red Line to Ashmont, take MBTA bus #240 or #240A southbound, exit at Randolph Ave and Chickatawbut Rd., Chickatawbut Overlook is one mile east, Houghton's Pond is two miles west on Chickatawbut Rd. East Area-Red Line to Quincy Center, take MBTA bus #238, exit at West and Willard Streets across from skating rink, cross rink parking lot to St. Moritz Nature Trail.

By Car: Rt. 128 to Exit 3, Houghton's Pond. Turn right at stop sign onto Hillside St. Houghton's Pond is approximately one mile on the right. Or continue to reservation headquarters on the left, next to the MDC stables.

Breakheart Reservation

Forest Street, Saugus, (617) 233-0834

Open year-round, dawn to dusk.

Vehicle access from Memorial Day to Labor Day, 10:00am to 6:00pm.

Breakheart Reservation is a 640-acre hardwood forest that is accented by jagged, rocky outcroppings, two freshwater lakes, and a rambling section of the Saugus River. Seven rocky hills, over two hundred feet high, provide vistas of Boston, southern New Hampshire, and Central Massachusetts. An extensive trail system through the woodlands guides visitors to various areas of the reservation.

Fishing in Silver and Pearce Lakes, hiking the trails and birdwatching by the Saugus River are popular activities which can be enjoyed year-round. The supervised swimming area at Pearce Lake, one of the few freshwater swimming spots north of Boston, draws crowds in the summer. In addition to its natural resources, the reservation owns a rich cultural history.

The Reservations and Historic Sites Unit has managed Breakheart since 1986. The staff maintains the trails, picnic sites, roads and beach, and offers recreational and interpretive programs to the public.

Free Programs

Visitor Services staff offer year-round interpretive programs which feature the abundant plant and animal life of the woods and ponds as well as reservation management issues and cultural themes of the reservation's past. In the summer, most programs begin at the Pearce Lake swimming area. Many of the programs are suitable for children. In addition, special school programs are offered in the spring for grades K through 12. (All programs subject to staffing.)

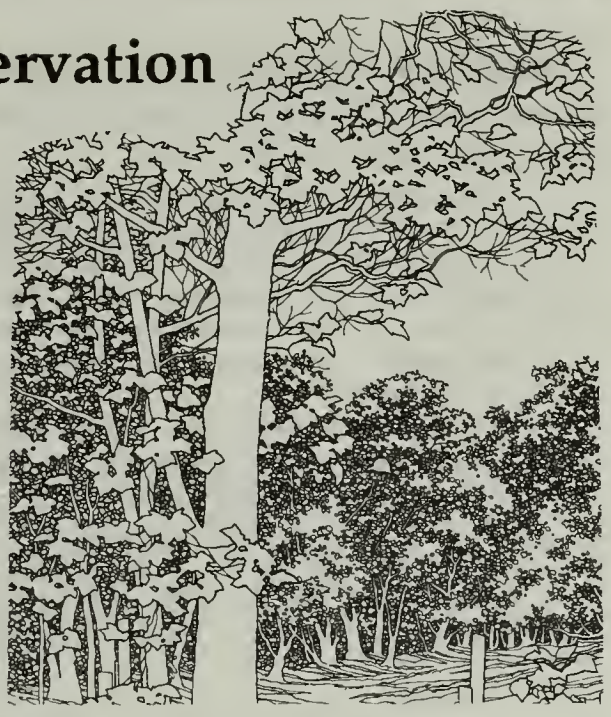
Services and Facilities

Restrooms, first-aid, information, bicycling, fishing, hiking, picnic area, cross-country skiing, swimming, tot lot.

Directions

MBTA: No access. By Car: Route 1 to Lynn Fells Parkway, entrance on Forest Street. Pine Tops Road begins at entrance and loops for two miles with access to picnic areas, ponds and trails.

Hammond Pond Reservation
Lost Pond



Hammond Pond Parkway, Newton
(617) 698-1802
Open year-round, dawn to dusk.

Hammond Pond is a wooded reservation with a large, scenic pond located in the Chestnut Hill section of Newton adjacent to the city's Webster Conservation Area. It is a natural forest with wooded trails and large geological formations. Nearby Lost Pond has a quaking bog and system of natural trails. For more information, please call the reservation headquarters.

Directions

Take Route 9 East or West to the Hammond Pond Parkway Exit. Just North on the Parkway is the reservation parking lot on the right.

Middlesex Fells Reservation

Malden, Medford, Winchester, Stoneham, Melrose
(617) 662-5214 Open year-round, dawn to dusk.

"Fells" is the catchy Saxon word for rocky, hilly tracts of land - an apt name for this scenic area, rich in local history. This picturesque region was once favored for timber, granite quarrying, ice industry, and waterpower for the mills which manufactured the first vulcanized rubber products.

Today, the Middlesex Fells Reservation's 2,060 acres offer a welcome retreat for city dwellers and a suitable terrain for hikers, horseback riders, rock climbers, cross-country skiers and picnickers as well as natural and cultural history buffs.

Special features for visitors include the Sheepfold Picnic Area, Bellevue Pond and Virginia Woods. The Sheepfold is 10 acres of open fields suitable for picnics, frisbee playing and informal games. Bellevue Pond is a seasonal pond surrounded by trails and wide fire roads, some leading up to the stone tower which looks out over the Boston basin. Virginia Woods, the site of a vanished milling village called "Haywardville", is now a dense Hemlock wooded enclave. Please see page 25 for more information on the Middlesex Fells Cross-country Ski Trail.

Free Programs

Programs focusing on the cultural and natural history of the Middlesex Fells Reservation are free and offered to the public year-round. (All programs subject to staffing.)

Services and Facilities

Bicycling, horseback riding, fishing, hiking, observation tower, picnic area, skating rink, cross-country skiing, swimming, tot lot.

Directions

MBTA: Orange Line to Wellington Station, MBTA bus #100 to Elm Street, walk south to the rotary, turn right on South Border Rd., Bellevue Pond and ski area are 1/5 mile right on South Border Rd. Sheepfold Section-when you exit on Elm Street, walk north on Rt. 28 underneath the overpass, sign is on the left. By Car: Take I-93 to exit 33, Rt. 28 Fellsway West, from rotary, go north on th Fellsway or South Border Road, or I-93, exit 34, take Pond Street east to Woodland Rd.. Look for pulloffs.

Quincy Quarries Historic Site

Ricciuti Drive, West Quincy (617) 727-4573 or 698-1802
Open year-round, dawn to dusk.

In 1985, the Metropolitan District Commission purchased twenty-two acres adjacent to the Blue Hills Reservation, including Granite Railway Quarry. It was here, in West Quincy, that America's large-scale granite quarrying industry was born in 1825 when, after an exhaustive search throughout New England, Solomon Willard selected the area as the source of stone for the Bunker Hill Monument in Charlestown. With his development of the revolutionary construction techniques that made hard Quincy granite a practical building stone, Willard earned the title "Father of the Granite Industry."

Here too, the Granite Railway was established in 1826. The Railway is a Civil Engineering Landmark. A pioneer in the American railroad industry, Gridley Bryant, engineered its design and construction and many of his inventions are still in use today.

During the next 140 years, over fifty quarries operated in Quincy, which became known nationwide as "the Granite City." The last active quarry closed in 1963.

Popular activities at the Quincy Quarries Historic Site include hiking, rock climbing, picnicking and scenic viewing. Trail connections to the Blue Hills Reservation are protected by a recent addition of acres.

Free Programs

Visitor Services Staff offer programs year-round that highlight the rich history and natural resources of this unique area. Program topics include: "The Birth of Two Industries," and "Quarries Greenbelt Hike," (All programs subject to staffing.)

Services and Facilities

Hiking, picnic area.

Directions

MBTA: Red Line to Quincy Center, take MBTA bus #215 to Copeland and Willard Streets, turn left on Willard, cross under Expressway and take first right onto Ricciuti Drice. Quarries are 1/4 mile on right. By Car: Route 93 (S.E. Expressway) to Furnace Brook Parkway (exit 8) follow signs to Willard Street and cross under Route 93. Take the first right onto Ricciuti Dr. at Mr. Tux. Quarries are 1/4 mile on right.

Stony Brook Reservation

Turtle Pond Parkway, West Roxbury, Hyde Park
Open year-round, dawn to dusk.

Enneking, Dedham and Turtle Pond Parkways wind their way through extensive tree covered hills and valleys, rock-outcroppings and wetlands, past Turtle Pond, into Hyde Park still further, past an array of recreational facilities. In its 475 acres, Stony Brook Reservation bursts with nature and man-made diversity.

Ten to twelve miles of hiking trails and bicycle paths meander through the quiet, forested portion of the reservation. Sunfish and perch swim in the fresh waters of Turtle Pond, an easily accessible spot for fishing.

In the Reservation's southern section are soccer and baseball fields, tennis courts, picnic areas, an ice skating rink, and a pool. A very special feature is the John F. Thompson Center, New England's first recreational facility designed specifically for the handicapped. Available by reservation only, (See page for more information.)

Services and Facilities

Restrooms, bathhouse, first-aid, handicap access, ballfield, bicycling, fishing, hiking, picnic area, skating rink, swimming pool, tennis, tot lot.

Directions

MBTA: Orange Line to Forest Hills Station, MBTA bus (Dedham) to Turtle Pond Parkway. By Car: From Washington Street at Forest Hills Station, 3 miles on Washington Street, towards Dedham, left onto Turtle Pond Parkway.

RIVER RESERVATIONS

Charles River Reservation

A great greenway, parkway and river corridor, the Charles River Reservation is a 17-mile long linear park system of outstanding diversity and national significance. It is the "Central Park" of metropolitan Boston.

Charles River Dam

The Charles River Dam, located near the Charlestown Bridge, creates the controlled waster levels of the Charles River Basin. The first dam, created in 1910 where the Museum of Science now stands, was the control point for a water basin modeled after the Alster Basin in Hamburg, Germany. The new dam built in 19 houses six huge pumps and assures a cleaner river and better flood control protection. Provisions for the passage of adadromous fish (alewives and shad) and a major system of locks for the passage of boats are featured at the Dam. The Dam is open for tours by appointment only. Call (617) 727-0488 for more information.

Charles River Basin and Esplanade

The completion of the Charles River Dam in 1910 created the opportunity for a major water park with landscaped river naks. Until 1936 the river banks were only narrow bands of green with shaded walkways. The generous gift of $1 million from Helen Storrow in memory of her husband, James, allowed landscape architect Arthur Shurcliff to design the lagoons and additional parklands we enjoy today.

Concerts which had started in 1910 became famous with the first Boston Pops concert in 1929 and in 1940 the Hatch Memorial Shell was completed.

The history of public recreation on the Basin includes Frederick Law Olmsted's design for the Charlesbank, the first public playground in the country completed in 1889; the programs of community boating whose building was completed in 1941; and the Paul Dudley White Bicycle Path dedicated in 1960.

John F. Kennedy Park

Continuing upstream from the Basin, there is John F. Kennedy Park located on Memorial Drive in Cambridge. This 5-acre site is intended for the public's passive enjoyment as a pedestrian corridor with benches and a memorial fountain. The park uses materials indigenous to NewEngland including granite for the foundation and entrance pillars, which are enscribed with quotations from the President's speeches, and a variety of trees native to the region.

Landry Park/Lakes District

The dam at Moody Street in Waltham creates the "Lakes District", an extensive area of flat water and flooded meadow. At Waltham Center Landry Park and its fish ladder create a pleasant open park adjacent to the Charles River Museum of Industry. Upstream a new "river walk" opens the river for bicyclists and pedestrians to Prospect Street. The Lakes District offers excellent canoeing and winter ice fishing.

Forest Grove Reservation

Forest Grove in Newton offers a limited area of woods and fields for nature study, picnicking or just relaxing. Superb views and cool breezes can be enjoyed by bird watchers and fishermen alike. Boating , canoeing, fishing and hiking are offered at the park Open year-round, dawn to dusk. For more information call (617) 484-6357.

Hemlock Gorge Reservation

Hemlock Gorge in Needham and Newton, is a small 23-acre wild area along the banks of the Charles River. The park is dominated by the steep gorge, the river, its surrounding stands of Hemlock trees and Echo Bridge, a huge granite brick structure that spans the river and gorge. When built in 1877 by the Boston Water Works, the bridge was the second largest masonry arch in the United States. In 1982, it was designated a National Historic Landmark. Atop the bridge, one is afforded fabulous views of the river and neighboring lands. From a platform beneath the bridge's central arch, visitors have long enjoyed testing the echo that gave the structure its name. One of the first parcels acquired by the Metropolitan Parks Commission (precursor to the MDC), Hemlock Gorge's value as an open natural space within the metropolitan area continues to be as great as in 1895, when the Commission originally set it aside for preservation. Open year-round, dawn to dusk. For more information call (617) 698-1802.

Brook Farm Historic Site

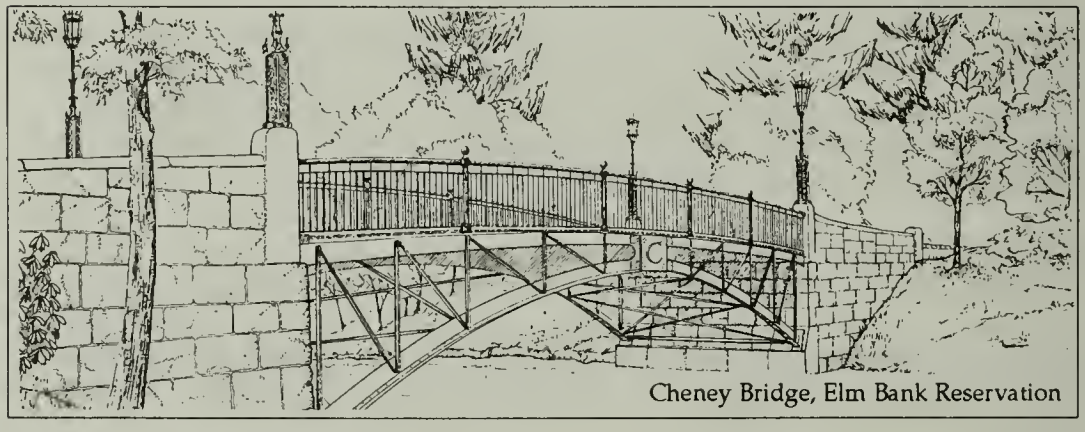
This National Historic Landmark is 179 acres of rolling fields, woodland and wetland and was the location of the experiemental society of Transcendentalists who lived on the farm in the 1840's. Tours are offered periodically throughout the year. The farm is located 1/3 mile west of the VFW Parkway on Baker Street in West Roxbury. For more information please call (617) 698-1802.

Village Falls Park

Located at Red Wing Bay at Charles River Village in Needham, this scenic park provides passive recreation as well as a canoe launching site for the Charles River. The park is located off of South and Fisher Streets. Open year-round, dawn to dusk. For more information call (617) 698-1802.

Cutler Park

Cutler Park's 600 acres make it the largest remaining fresh water marsh on the middle Charles. Located in Needham and Dedham, the marsh and small lake attract over one hundred species of birds also making Cutler Park a prime spot for nature study. Other activities suitable to this wetland preserve are hiking, canoeing and fishing. Open year-round, dawn to dusk. For more information on this park call (617) 698-1802.



Cheney Bridge, Elm Bank Reservation

Elm Bank Reservation

Elm Bank Reservation, located in Wellesley, is one of the most recent MDC parkland acquisition. The 182 acres of woodlands, fields, and old estate property is surrounded on three sides by the Charles River. The reservation is listed on the National Register of Historic Places for its many elements of estate landscaping. A variety of wildlife, including deer, thrive in the upland habitats and along the river. The reservation is open Wednesday through Sunday 9:00 a.m. to dusk. For more information call (617) 698-1802.

Mystic River Reservation

The banks of the Mystic River are almost entirely within public ownership, from the Amelia Earhart Dam at the mouth to the Mystic Lakes, making it one of the Commonwealth's best protected streams. It has been much altered since the 1800's when its shores were largely saltmarsh and some of the most famous shipyards on the continent were in Medford.

Mary O'Malley Park

Acquired from the federal government after the closing of the historic Chelsea Naval Hospital, the park has striking views of the harbor and Tobin (Mystic River) Bridge. A boat landing and shelter are located on an historic granite peir. A wind sculpture by William Wainwright enlivens the waterfront. Tennis courts and a large open grassy area for concerts and picnicking are also available. The park is open year-round, dawn to dusk.

Torbert McDonald Park

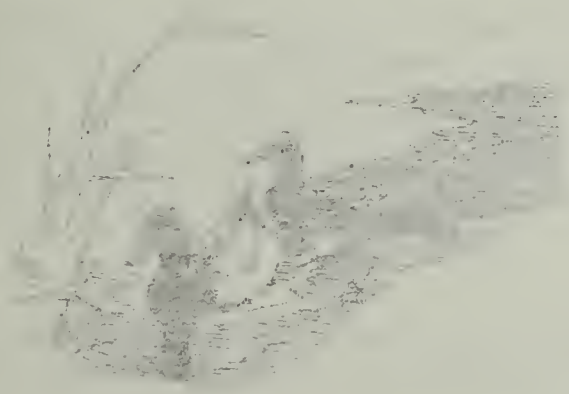
Honoring a United States Congressman who served the district for twenty-one years, McDonald Park reclaimed a dredge spoiled area left after the construction of I-93. The award-winning landscape design of meanering paths, trees and open lawns provides space for rest and enjoyment as well as bicycling, jogging, walking and informal games in a riverside setting.

Draw Seven Park

The Draw Number Seven Railroad Bridge crossing the Mystic River gives this park its name, honoring the now replaced structure. Built in cooperation with the MBTA, this park provides much needed field game space for Somerville and adjacent communities. Draw Seven Park offers nine acres of parkland which includes two soccer fields, a bikeway/walkway, a picnic area with shelter and beautiful lanscaping.

Mystic Lakes

At the time the Metropolitan Parks Commission was organized, the shores of the lakes were in large estates. In part through generous gifts of land, the eastern shores became part of the park system. The western shores were never acquired and were subdivided into smaller house lots. Today the Mystic Lakes are popular for freshwater swimming at Sandy Beach. Special sailing programs are available from the Tufts University boat house.



Neponset River Reservation

The Neponset River, unlike the Charles and Mystic, remains a natural estuary with extensive marshlands at its mouth and significant freshwater wetlands along much of its upstream length. It provides an unusually rich and diverse habitat for both plants and animals and hosts a number of threatened and/or endangered species.

Dorchester Shores Reservation

Malibu Beach, Victory Road Park, and Tenean Beach provide the public with coastal access along the extended mouth of the Neponset River. Malibu Beach offers protected swimming; Victory Road Park is a passive park with indigenous planting on a reclaimed landfill; Tenean Beach is a popular swimming beach with playground facilities and tennis courts.. Together these facilities are an important link in a planned continuous pathway and greenway system from Castle Island to the Neponset River.

Squantum Point Park

The Squantum Meadows were used as an airfield in the early 1900's. The site became the Massachusetts School for Naval Air Service in 1917 and within the year, the U.S. Naval Air Station,, Squantum. At the same time the Bethlehem Shipbuilding Corp. was building 140 destroyers on 70 acres of the waterfront. Today, the site is used in part for worker parking and a water shuttle stop for the MWRA as well as a public park access to the waters of Dorchester Bay. The airfield, now overgrown, is outstanding bird habitat. The park will be fully redesigned when the MWRA no longer requires use of the site.

Fowl Meadow

Designated as an Area of Critical Environmental Concern, the meadow is important habitat for wildlife and a source of drinking water for Dedham and Westwood. The Burma Road, a service roadway over an underground sewer, provides the public with a trail for nature study in the meadow between Pauls Bridge at Neponset Valley Parkway and Route 128.

Neponset Marshes

The estuarine portion of the Neponset River upstream of Granite Avenue is characterized by extensive tidal marshes. Granite bound for Boston from Quincy was transferred from early rail to boats ot a pier on the Milton shore. This segment of the river offers interesting canoeing and nature study opportunities. The recent acquisition of the bordering railroad right-of-way offers an excellent "rail-to-trail" opportunity.

COASTAL RESERVATIONS

Belle Isle Marsh Reservation

Bennington Street, East Boston, (617) 727-5350
Open year-round, 9:00 a.m. to dusk.

Belle Isle Marsh Reservation preserves 152 acres of the 241-acre Belle Isle Marsh, the last remaining salt marsh in Boston. A unique place to explore, the reservation exemplifies the type of wetlands that once lined the Massachusetts Bay shore. Centuries of flourishing plant life have made the marsh more fertile than the richest farmland. Its protected waters are nurseries to fish and shellfish and are critical habitat to many saltmarsh plants and wildlife rare to the metropolitan area.

In addition to the preservation of the natural areas of the marsh, the Metropolitan District Commisison manages 28 acres of landscaped park with pathways, benches and an observation tower.

Free Programs

Guided walks explain the natural and cultural history of Belle Isle. Topics covered include saltmarsh ecology and the history of man's use of and impact on the marsh. Special programs for community and school groups can also be arranged by contacting the reservation. (All programs subject to staffing.)

Services and Facilities

Information, handicap access, hiking, observation tower.

Directions

MBTA: Blue Line to Suffolk Downs Station, exit onto Bennington St., tum left, entrance 500 yards on right. By Car: From south take 93N through Callahan Tunnel onto Rt. 1A, take second exit (Winthrop/Chelsea) onto Bennington St. Continue 1.5 miles to main entrance on right. From north take Rt. 1A south, left at the Ramada Inn sign in E. Boston and follow Boardman St. to Bennington St. Take a left onto Bennington, continue for a half mile, entrance is on the right.

Boston Harbor Islands

(617) 727-5250

The Boston Harbor Islands are a unique natural and cultural resource located just 45 minutes from Downtown Boston. Visitors can enjoy picnicking, hiking, camping, and learn about wildlife and military fortifications from our island staff, and see spectacular views of the sea and the Boston skyline.

This park is operated cooperatively by the MDC and the Department of Environmental Management (DEM). The MDC manages Georges, Lovells and Peddocks Islands.

Ferry Service

Ferry service is available from Long Wharf (near the Aquarium), Hingham Ship Yard and Lynn Heritage Park. Ferries transport visitors to Georges Island where a water taxi can be taken to the other islands. These private ferries charge a small fee. Please call the ferry lines for fare and schedule information: Bay State Cruise Lines, 723-7800; Boston Harbor Cruises, 227-4321; Massachusetts Bay Lines, 749-4500. Water taxi information is available at the park office, 727-5290.

Day use permits are required for groups of 25 or more. Permits are also required for camping and school groups. Please refer to page 18 for permit information.

Docking

Limited docking space is available for private boats at Georges Island on a first-come-first-served basis. On all other islands docks are available for off-loading only. Small pram are available for anchoring off-shore.

Georges Island

This 28-acre island is dominated by Fort Warren, a National Historic Landmark. Constructed between 1833 and 1869 of hand-hewn granite from the neighboring communities of Quincy and Cape Ann, Fort Warren achieved national prominence during the Civil War as a prison for captured Confederates. For over a century it served as a key location for the defense of Boston. Georges Island now serves as the entrance to the Boston Harbor Islands State Park and provides inter-island water taxi service, rest room facilities, running water and a concession stand. Georges is open to the public from May through mid-October.

Programs

Park rangers provide fort tours, historical programs and slide shows. Natural history and harbor pollution programs are also offered. Special school programs and curriculum materials are available. Contact the park office for a schedule of events.

Services and Facilities

Restrooms, first-aid, information, handicap access, concession, boating, fishing, hiking, observation tower, picnic area.

Lovells Island

Characterized by its long beaches and diverse wildlife, 62-acre Lovells Island is a peaceful and primitive island. Along its shores there are both rocky tide pools, sand dunes and some of the best views of the outer harbor. Lovells Island has the only designated swimming beach of the harbor islands. Water quality is tested on a regular basis to ensure a healthy beach.

Hidden in the center of the island are the remnants of Fort Standish, a turn-of-the-century military installation. Lovells is also rich in nautical lore and stories of pirates and shipwrecks. The marsh, grassland, and wooded areas attract a great variety of birds and support a large population of rabbits. Individual and group camp sites provide a unique island experience. Lovells Island is accessible by the free water taxi from Georges Island during the summer months.

Programs

Special events and daily programs bring alive the military history, folklore, geology, water quality, plants and birds of the island. Contact the park office for a schedule of events.

Services and Facilities

Restrooms, first-aid, camping, fishing, hiking, picnic area, swimming, magnificent views. No electricity or running water.

Peddocks Island

One of the largest and most diverse, this 134-acre island features cool woodlands, open fields, rocky beaches and a saltmarsh. The east head of Peddocks contains the buildings and gun batteries of Fort Andrews, active in harbor defense from 1904 to the end of World War II. There is a freshwater pond and wildlife sanctuary on the west head. Displays in the visitor's center offer insights to the island's unique natural and military history. Camping is a great way to enjoy Peddocks Island to its fullest. The island is accessible by water taxi from Georges Island during the summer months.

Programs

Park rangers offer island walks, fort tours, and special events that highlight the military use, folklore, and natural history of the island and the harbor. Contact the park office for a schedule of events.

Services and Facilities

Restrooms, first-aid, information, boating, camping, fishing, hiking, observation tower, picnic area. No electricity.

Castle Island

Day Boulevard, South Boston (617) 727-5250

Open year-round.

Fort Independence is open from Memorial Day to Columbus Day, hours vary.

Fort Independence, a pentagonal five-bastioned granite fort built between 1834 and 1851, is the dominating feature of Castle Island. This 22-acre urban park is connected to the mainland by both pedestrian and vehicular causeways. The fort and the island are on the State and National Registers of Historic Places, and Fort Independence is a national historic landmark.

Fort tours are conducted by the Castle Island Association in the summer months and there is interpretive signage for self-guided tours. The principle program theme, the History of Castle Island, stresses the role of the fort in harbor defense. Please call the Harbor Region office at 727-5290 for information on school programming. (All programs subject to staffing.)

Services and Facilities

Restrooms, information, handicap access, concession, bicycling, fishing, observation tower, picnic area, sailing, swimming, tot lot.

Directions

MBTA: Red Line to Broadway Station, MBTA bus #9 or #11 to the end of the line. Walk to the right across Marine Park to the beach, walk left along the beach to the entrance of the fort. By Car: Rte. 3 to JFK exit, follow beach along William J. Day Blvd., Castle Island is at the end of the Causeway.

Fort Revere

Hull (617) 727-5290

Located atop Telegraph Hill in the historic Pemberton section of Hull, this site was first fortified cica 1776. Originally called Fort Independence, the site included a pentagonal fortification with twenty-two cannon which dominated the southerly approaches to Boston Harbor. Traces of their original earthworks still remain. Re-named Fort Revere, the site was converted into a major coastal defense fortification in the late 1800's. It was de-activated in the 1960's and is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. The MDC is currently developing plans to rehabilitate the site. For more information on this site, please call the MDC at (617) 727-5290.

Directions

Take Nantasket Avenue to Farina Road to the top of the hill.

Lightship "Nantucket I" WLV 612

Marina Bay, Quincy (617) 727-5290

Open seasonally May to October, hours vary.

One of the newest MDC facilities, the Nantucket I WLV 612, was the last U.S. lightship in commission by the U.S. Coast Guard. This unique historic vessel is currently undergoing restoration and will operate as a floating museum and will operate within the Boston Harbor Islands State Park and Massachusetts Bay.

Directions

From points north take SE Expressway to Quincy/Neponset. Take a right at the yellow flashing light. Go over the Neponset River Bridge, take the first right and follow signs to Marina Bay. From points south take Rt. 128 South or Rt. 3 North to the SE Expressway. Get off at Adams St./Milton Exit 9. Go through two sets of lights and take a right onto Squantum St. Continue for 5-6 miles and Marina Bay Bay in 1/4 mile on the left.

Lynn-Nahant Beach Reservation

Lynn-Nahant (617) 581-1956

Open year-round, dawn to dusk. Summers dawn to 11:00 p.m.

An impressive seascape can be viewed from 2 1/2 miles of ocean front property. Late June to Labor Day, visitors soak up the sun or cool off in the shallow, unpolluted water of Nahant Bay. Lifeguards are stationed on both Nahant Beach and nearby King's Beach.

Joggers and walkers throng the reservation's promenade and the vast beach of hard-packed sand provides welcome open space at low tide. At Red Rock, tidepools are alive with the vivid color of marine plants. At low tide, the rocky shore can be safely approached from King's Beach. Children will enjoy making their own discoveries of scurrying hermit crabs and bright green sea urchins.

Recreation fields offer baseball, raquetball and tennis. A tot-lot adjoins the bathhouse where shower facilities are available free of charge. Comfort stations are located nearby both on the promenade and one mile to the south on the causeway. A parking lot for up to 1,300 vehicles allows quick and easy access to the beach but visitors should take care not to damage vegetation when crossing the dunes.

The Commission acquired the reservation in 1900. All private buildings, including Samuel Soule's 1855 *Hotel Nahant* were removed in order to allow public access to the coast.

Free Programs

Interpretive programs and beach-related recreational activities are offered year-round. School programming features marine biology and oceanography. Contact reservation staff for further information. (All programs subject to staffing.)

Services and Facilities

Restrooms, bathhouse, first-aid, information, concession, ballfield, bandstand, bicycling, boat launch, fishing, hiking, picnic area, swimming, tennis, tot lot.

Directions

MBTA: From Haymarket Station to Central Square, Lynn, take MBTA bus #400, 440, 441 or 442, or commuter rail, or take Blue Line to Wonderland, bus #441 or 442 (Marblehead). From Central Square take bus #439 to the rotary near bathhouse.
By Car: Lynnway (Rt. 1A) to Carroll Highway to Lynn Shore Drive.

Nantasket Beach Reservation

Nantasket Avenue, Hull (617) 727-5293

Open year round, dawn to dusk.

Lifeguards on duty from late June to early September.

Nantasket Beach has been a popular summer destination for people from the urban areas since the middle of the nineteenth century. The Reservation encompasses 26 acres along 1.3 miles of oceanfront. The historic Carousel, privately operated through agreement, evokes the amusement park past of the area. Band concerts and public dancing are a popular summertime feature.

Directions

By Car: Take Route 3A South to Washington Boulevard, Hingham to Nantasket Avenue, Hull.

Rumney Marsh Reservation

Saugus, Revere (617) 662-5214

Open year-round, dawn to dusk

Rumney Marsh, a 600+ acre reservation, is located within the rich Saugus and Pines River estuary. This expansive saltmarsh provides habitat for a wide array of wildlife including migratory birds and marine life. The reservation also provides recreational opportunities such as boating, fishing, walking, and bird watching. Free programs relating to natural and cultural history are also offered

Free Programs

Natural and cultural history walks related to the area are offered.
Call 662-5214 for more information.

Directions

MBTA: Take the MBTA Lynn/Salem Bus to Route 107, Salem Turnpike and enter at the embankment.
By Car: Take Callahan Tunnel to Route 1 North, continue through Bell Circle and at Brown Circle take aright onto Route 107 North, Salem Turnpike. At the Bristow lights make a u-turn reversing direction and continue for 1/2 mile to the embankment entrance on the right.

Stodder's Neck Reservation

Hingham/Weymouth (617) 727-5293

Open year-round, dawn to dusk

A peninsula on the Hingham/Weymouth line at the mouth of the Back River, Stodder's Neck was once an unsightly gravel pit. Reclaimed and relandscaped in a manner reminiscent of Frederick Law Olmsted's work at World's End, this passive park provides harborside walking trails and a hilltop view of the Back River.

Directions

MBTA: No access.
By Car: From Boston take Route 3A South to Lincoln Street in Hingham

Wollaston Beach Reservation

Quincy Shore Drive, Quincy

(617) 727-5293 or 773-7954 (summer only)

Open year-round, dawn to dusk. Bathhouse open June to September.

Wollaston Beach Reservation offers a variety of recreational opportunities. Quincy Shore Drive links Wollaston Beach with Caddy Memorial Park and Moswetuset Hummock to provide a unique blend of landscapes.

The 2.3 mile beach is popular for its jogging/bicycling trail and swimming. Caddy Park, on the southern end of the beach, has over 15 acres of fields and marshland complete with play area, lookout tower and picnic tables.

Moswetuset Hummock, on the beach's northern end, is a Natural Historic Site. Once a summer campsite of the Massachusetts Indians during the 1600's, it is a mixture of woodland trails and open marshland. The site's short loop trail offers views of Quincy Bay and 144-acre New Squantum Marsh.

Services and Facilities

Bathhouse, handicap access, bicycling, fishing, hiking, observation tower, picnic area, swimming, tot lot.

Directions

MBTA: Caddy Park-Red Line to Wollaston Street, proceed to Hancock St., turn right and walk one block to Beach Street, turn left on beach and continue on Quincy Shore Drive. Moswetuset Hummock-Red Line to Quincy Center or North Quincy Station, MBTA bus #211 to Squantum, exit at E. Squantum St and Quincy Shore Drive, proceed to small wooded knoll 200 yards east.

WATERSHED REGION

The Metropolitan Watersheds are lands that contribute rainfall to the reservoirs. These watersheds are monitored to protect the reservoirs from over-development and to assure that the high quality of the water supplied to the distribution systems is maintained. The lands also provide the most extensive areas of woodland habitat in Massachusetts. The watersheds are habitat for wild turkeys, bald eagles, deer, coyote, and bear as well as the more familiar ducks, songbirds, and beaver.

Management stresses water quality values and water production. Forestry Management controlls hunting and fishing, which are permitted during specific periods within posted limits. Fall foliage viewing, birding, snow shoeing and scenic drives attract thousands of visitors each year. Directions to each reservoir can be obtained by calling the district offices listed below.

Quabbin Reservoir

Belchertown, MA (413) 323-7221

Open year-round, dawn to dusk. Fishing season mid-April to mid-October.

Quabbin Reservoir is one of the largest man-made domestic water supplies in the United States. It was created in the 1930's by the construction of two huge earth dams that were used to contain the waters of the three branches of the Swift River. It remains a great engineering feat and one of the largest untreated water supplies in the world.

The Quabbin Reservoir water surface covers 39.4 square miles. The Reservoir is eighteen miles long and has 181 miles of shoreline. Fishing is a popular activity at the Reservoir. Quabbin's fishery is comprised of both coldwater and warmwater species. (Fishing licenses are required.) Boat rentals and parking are available throughout the season.

Wachusett Reservoir

Clinton, MA (508) 365-3272

Open year-round, dawn to dusk. Fishing season, mid-April to mid-October (shore fishing only).

Wachusett Reservoir was constructed between 1898 and 1905 and together with the Quabbin Reservoir provides the water supply for over forty cities and towns within the Commonwealth. Comprised of 107 square miles of watershed lands, over 4,100 acres of water surface with a storage capacity of 65 billion gallons, its natural resources are vast and varied.

With 36 miles of shoreline, the area's primary recreational advantage is shore fishing. Persons 15 years of age or older possessing a valid Massachusetts fishing license are allowed at designated areas around the reservoir.

Sudbury Reservoir

Southborough, MA (508) 365-3272

Open year-round, dawn to dusk. Fishing season, mid-April to mid-October (shore fishing only).

Sudbury Reservoir is the watershed ready-reserve system water supply reservoir. Constructed in the 1890's, it has served as a back-up supply for Quabbin and Wachusett Reservoirs for the past 15 years. The reservoir holds 7.5 billion gallons of water and has 38 miles of shoreline, which is used extensively for fishing.

A new public access and recreational management plan for the Sudbury watershed area is currently in development and is expected to be implemented in 1993.

Preserving the past... protecting the future.
Continued from inside cover.

In 1900 the Metropolitan Park Commissioners prepared an exhibit of the parks for Paris Exposition (including a one ton plaster topographical model now at the Museum of Science). It was subsequently exhibited at the Pan American Exhibition in Buffalo, the Louisiana Purchase Exposition in St. Louis, and the Lewis and Clark Centennial Exposition in Portland. In 1910, report of international competition for the planning of greater Berlin included a full page map of the metropolitan park system and photographs of the Blue Hills Reservation and Revere Beach.

Today we celebrate 100 successful years of park stewardship. The system has withstood the test of time contributing every day to the quality of life of the millions who live, work or visit metropolitan Boston.

The child who learns to swim in Pleasure Bay who clambers up Great Blue Hill for the first grand view, or catches a first fish in Turtle Pond; the thousands who enjoy the Charles River while commuting on Storrow Drive or crowd the Hatch Shell for the ballet or the Fourth of July; the senior golfers who tee off every morning; the joggers, canoeists, sailors, skaters, cyclists and amateur naturalists all depend on this great park system.

So too do the Great Blue Herons, showy Lady Slippers, timber rattlesnakes, pickerel, pike hawks and owls, strands of hemlock and swamp maple, estuary marshes and barrier beaches; the flora and fauna and habitats that make our area distinctive, healthy and stimulating.

The next one hundred years will bring new and demanding challenges to the park system's environmental quality, public management, and standards of use. It will take the energy and commitment of all of us who use and enjoy this great park system to "preserve the past and protect the future".

Preserving the past... protecting the future
MDC
Metropolitan Parks System
1893 1993

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Metropolitan District Commission

William F. Weld, *Governor*
Argeo Paul Cellucci, *Lt. Governor*
Susan F. Tierney, *Secretary, EOEA*
M. Ilyas Bhatti, *Commissioner, MDC*

Printed on Recycled Paper

On the cover: Bellevue Pond in the Middlesex Fells Reservation as drawn by Barbara Farina, CEIP Intern, Summer 1992. Map by Glenn Hazelton. Research and graphic design by Carol Arsenault.

Publication No. 17236 - 16 - 100M - 11/92 - .16 - C.R. Approved by: Philmore Anderson III, State Purchasing Agent

B Jarrett 92

MASS. EA40.2: M57/7/insert #6

Metropolitan Parks System 1893 -- 1993 Rediscover Your Parks

Commonwealth of Mass. Library System
OCT 0 1993
Government Documents

1869

A Metropolitan Commission is proposed by Boston landscape designer, Robert Morris Copeland, to create a series of parks with a grand boulevard girdling the city and linking the parks and harbor islands with roads. bridges, and ferries

1889

Metropolitan Sewerage Board (MSB) created.

1892

A temporary Metropolitan Park Commission (MPC) is organized. Its commissioners, traveling by steamer, railroad, and carriage, visit all of the proposed reservations around Boston. Sylvester Baxter and Charles Eliot complete their plan for a park system. Their report is published in 1893.

1893

Metropolitan Parks System (MPC) established to "aquire, maintain, and make available to inhabitants of said district open spaces for exercise and recreation." It is America's first park system.

Beginning of aqcquisitions: Beaver Brook -- Blue Hills -- Middlesex Fells -- Stony Brook -- Mystic River (1899) - they are the first metropolitan reservations in America.

1894

Metropolitan Police established to protect reservations from fire, vandalism, and pollution. They are America's first environmental police.

Parkways are authorized to connect and integrate parks and reservations with aesthetically pleasing roadways.

1895

MPC begins construction of first parkway (Fellsway).

Revere Beach waterfront acquired. Will be the first public beach in America.

Metropolitan Water Board (MWB) Created.

1896

MWB begins construction of Wachusett Reservoir and Nashua Aqueduct.

MSB lays pipes for pumping stations for metropolitan area.

1899

MPC establishes nursery at Blue Hills Reservation for trees to be planted along parkways.

MPC establishes Nantasket Beach.

1901

Metropolitan Water Board and Board of Metropolitan Sewerage Commissioners consolidated, forming the Metropolitan Water and Sewerage Board (MS&SB)

1905

Middlesex Fells Zoo established with indigenous Fells wildlife. It was the first zoo in the metropolitan area.

1908

Metropolitan Water and Sewerage Board (MW&SB) completes construction of the Wachusett Reservoir.

1910 — Charles River dam completed to create basin (locks, etc.): eliminated sanitary problem and created recreation area.

1911 — Wachusett Reservoir opens.

Six public boat landings created on the Charles River.

1918 — MPC Police guard reservoirs from 'saboteurs.'

1919 — Metropolitan Water and Sewer Commission combined with Metropolitan Park Commission to create the Metropolitan District Commission (MDC) under Governor Calvin Coolidge.

Red scare and strikes - MDC Police called in to keep the peace.

1924 — Decade of major parkway construction begins.

1927 — MDC builds first artificial skating rink at Blue Hills Reservation.

1929 — Boston Pops "Esplanade Orchestra" gives its first concert on the Fourth of July, Arthur Fiedler conducts.

1933 — The Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) and the Work Projects Administration (WPA) camp at the Blue Hills and Breakheart Reservations. Massive construction of trails, shelters, and other reservation facilities undertaken, including improved weather station, which is the oldest continually-operating weather observatory in America.

MDC builds the first American public golf course (Ponkapoag).

1934 — Breakheart Reservation aquired.

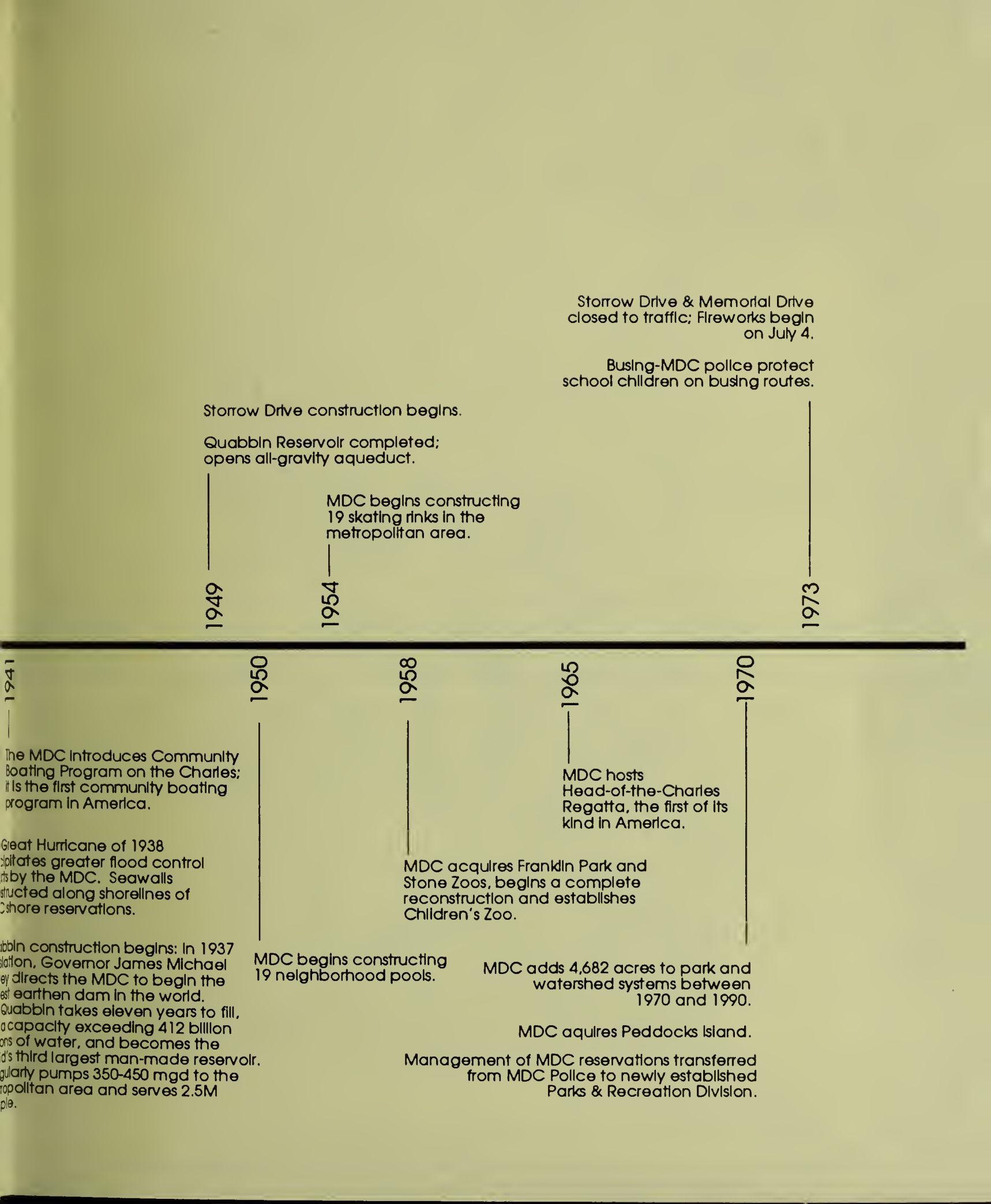
1936 — Storrow Memorial Embankment expands Esplanade, thanks to $1,000,000 gift from the Storrow Family.

First public boating facility in America

1938 — The Gr... precip... efforts ... constru... MDC s...

1941 — T... B... it... p...

Quabb... legislat... Curley ... largest ... The Qu... has a ... gallons ... world's ... it regul... metrop... people...


Storrow Drive & Memorial Drive closed to traffic; Fireworks begin on July 4.
Busing-MDC police protect school children on busing routes.
Storrow Drive construction begins.
Quabbin Reservoir completed; opens all-gravity aqueduct.
MDC begins constructing 19 skating rinks in the metropolitan area.
1949
1954
1973
1941
1950
1958
1965
1970
The MDC introduces Community Boating Program on the Charles; it is the first community boating program in America.
Great Hurricane of 1938 ipitates greater flood control rts by the MDC. Seawalls structed along shorelines of Cshore reservations.
bbin construction begins: In 1937 slation, Governor James Michael ey directs the MDC to begin the est earthen dam in the world. Quabbin takes eleven years to fill, a capacity exceeding 412 billion ons of water, and becomes the d's third largest man-made reservoir. gularly pumps 350-450 mgd to the ropolitan area and serves 2.5M ple.
MDC begins constructing 19 neighborhood pools.
MDC hosts Head-of-the-Charles Regatta, the first of its kind in America.
MDC acquires Franklin Park and Stone Zoos, begins a complete reconstruction and establishes Children's Zoo.
MDC adds 4,682 acres to park and watershed systems between 1970 and 1990.
MDC aquires Peddocks Island.
Management of MDC reservations transferred from MDC Police to newly established Parks & Recreation Division.

William F. Weld, Governor
A. Paul Cellucci, Lt. Governor
M. Ilyas Bhatti, Commissioner

Associate Commissioners:
Avril T. Elkort
Robert H. Carr, Jr.
Renee M. Landers
Darryl Settles

Preserving the past... protecting the future

MDC

Metropolitan Parks System

1893 — 1993

MDC celebrates the Centennial of its Metropolitan Park System.

1993 — Dorchester Shores reclaimed and park opened - MDC to build an eight mile urban seashore park extending form Dorchester to Castle Island.

1991 — MDC restores Hatch Shell.

1989 — MDC re-builds Lynnway.

1988 — MDC acquires land along the Neponset River in Quincy to establish Squantum Point Park.

1976 — MDC sponsors Boston Pops Esplanade Orchestra Concert on the bicentennial in 1976, putting it in the Guiness Book of World Records as the world's largest outdoor concert, with over 600,000 attending.

1992 — MDC dedicates Southwest Corridor Park; 5.5 miles of walking and running paths, playing courts and fields for inner-city neighborhoods.

MDC dedicates Riverbank Park on the Charles River, in Waltham & Watertown.

MDC dedicates Elm Bank in Dover & Wellesley.

MDC renovates and rehabilitates Revere Beach Reservation.

MDC dedicates Old Harbor Park.

MDC dedicates gift of the 400 acre Rumney Marshes Reservation.

Since 1991, the MDC has acquired 2,732 acres for watershed protection and 768 acres for parkland.

New infrastructure planning begins.

1985 — Belle Isle Marsh opens in E. Boston.

1978 — MDC completes New Charles River Dam.

MDC opens America's first recreation center exclusively dedicated to the handicapped in Hyde Park.

1977 — MDC opens Trailside Museum for environmental education at Blue Hills.

1974 — MDC begins reconstruction of Fort Independence on Castle Island.

MASS. EA40.2: M51/4/1992-93

THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT
STATE HOUSE • BOSTON 02133

WILLIAM F. WELD
GOVERNOR

ARGEO PAUL CELLUCCI
LIEUTENANT-GOVERNOR

GOVERNMENT DOCUMENTS COLLECTION
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BY HIS EXCELLENCY

WILLIAM F. WELD
GOVERNOR

EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 345

ESTABLISHING A GREEN RIBBON COMMISSION TO OVERSEE THE CENTENNIAL OF THE METROPOLITAN PARK SYSTEM AND TO PLAN FOR THE FUTURE OF THE SYSTEM

WHEREAS, on June 3, 1893, landscape architect Charles Eliot and Sylvester Baxter, Charles Francis Adams, Philip A. Chase, William B. de las Casas, Abraham L. Richards, and William Chase, together with other enlightened citizens of the Commonwealth, created the Metropolitan Park System to carry out a mission of preserving and managing "the rock hills, the stream banks, and the bay and seashore" for the enjoyment of future generations; and

WHEREAS, the Metropolitan Park System currently consists of over 15,000 acres of beaches, rivers, parkway borders and forested reservations which provide the Commonwealth's citizens and tourists with recreational opportunities; and

WHEREAS, the Metropolitan Park System is internationally recognized as the first regional open space system in America and serves as a model for other states and countries in developing a unified system to promote the preservation and enjoyment of parks, rivers, beaches, and forested reservations; and

WHEREAS, the Metropolitan Park System protects the habitat of eastern Massachusetts native flora and fauna including the showy Ladyslipper orchid and the endangered Timber Rattlesnake;

WHEREAS, the Metropolitan Park System is rich in natural and cultural resources, including:

The Blue Hills Reservation with its extraordinary archaeological sites
Revere Beach, the first beach in America redeveloped for public use;

Monuments of the Commonwealth's great contributions to the founding of our country, including Fort Independence on Castle Island and the Dorothy Quincy Homestead in Quincy, as well as monuments of the Civil War including Fort Warren on Georges Island;

The Charles River Basin, the world renowned waterpark which hosts the celebrated Boston Pops concerts and the Head of the Charles Regatta , the world's largest single day rowing event;

Places of solitude and beauty including the Middlesex Fells and Belle Isle Reservations;

WHEREAS, the Centennial of the Metropolitan Park System provides the Commonwealth with an occasion to celebrate the many natural and historic treasures the System has preserved for one hundred years and to plan for the public stewardship of the Metropolitan Park System for the next one hundred years;

NOW THEREFORE, I William F. Weld, Governor of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, by virtue of the power vested in me as Supreme Executive Magistrate, do hereby create a Green Ribbon Commission to Oversee the Centennial of the Metropolitan Park System and to plan for the Future of the System, and order as follows:

1. The Commission shall consist of no more than twenty-one members appointed by the Governor, including representatives of park and community advocacy groups, the business community, academia, urban planning organizations and two members of the General Court, one to be appointed by the Speaker of the House and one to be appointed by the President of the Senate, and members of the Executive Branch, including the Secretary of Environmental Affairs and the Commissioner of the Metropolitan District Commission. The Governor shall appoint a chair and a vice-chair of the Commission, and the Commission may establish such subcommittees as it deems necessary to fulfill its responsibilities under this Executive Order;

2. The Commission shall coordinate, develop and recommend to the Governor a plan for the future of the Park System, which shall have as its objective the best means of preserving the System's natural resources for the citizenry and tourists of the Commonwealth;

3. The Commission shall oversee and plan public events to celebrate the Centennial of the Metropolitan Park System;

4. The Commission shall investigate the potential utilization of resources from both the public and private sectors to fund Centennial events and to create a financial management plan to strengthen the Park System;

Given at the Executive Chamber in Boston this 24th day of November in the year of our Lord one thousand nine hundred ninety-two.

William F. Weld, Governor,
Commonwealth of Massachusetts

Michael Joseph Connolly
Secretary of the Commonwealth

GOD SAVE THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS

MASS. CIVIL DEF. 2: M31/7/7/insert #8

METROPOLITAN PARK COMMISSION

REPORT

1893

SECRETARY'S REPORT.

PART FIRST.

I.

Need of an Ample Provision of Open Spaces, and Difficulties in the Way of obtaining Them.

To the Board of Metropolitan Park Commissioners:—

Gentlemen: — The provision of ample open spaces for public recreation and the promotion of public health is now universally regarded as an essential feature in the proper equipment of urban communities. In all parts of the civilized world the leading cities are recognizing this necessity. The younger cities are perceiving the wisdom of providing amply for the future in this respect by securing lands in suitable locations and in sufficient amount, to be developed with the growth of their population. The older cities, like London, Paris and Berlin, though long possessed of extensive reservations of this description, are to-day finding their amount of open spaces inadequate, and are taking measures for securing extensive areas in addition that will meet the needs of the future.

It was in view of the needs of the country around Boston that the General Court of 1892 authorized the appointment of a commission to investigate the subject, directing that a plan be reported for providing ample open spaces for the use of the public in the towns and cities in the vicinity of Boston.

1. Some Contradictory Aspects of the Metropolitan Region.

A stranger looking over the country lying within ten or twelve miles of the Boston city hall, and ignorant of the

existence of the political boundaries separating, by almost wholly "imaginary lines," the various cities and towns that make up one of the densest masses of population to be found in the new world upon an area of like extent, would be puzzled to account for certain things that could not fail to attract his attention. He would see what appeared to be one great city massed around the shores of the harbor and along the banks of the rivers emptying therein, its thousands of buildings spreading irregularly out into the valleys and over the hill slopes of the surrounding country. He would see this great city occupying a region of remarkable and diversified landscape interest; a bay with beautiful shores and numerous islands large and small, a country varied with hills and fields, woodland, meadows, lakes and streams. He would find the population comprised within a considerable segment of the southerly half of this region provided with extensive facilities for public open-air recreation; an admirably devised system of parks, parkways and boulevards, public gardens and playgrounds, forming continuous chains of pleasure ground, or sprinkled liberally over the territory. Throughout the rest of the great urban area, with few exceptions, he would see almost nothing of the kind. He would behold miles and miles of thickly settled territory, with practically not a square yard of public ground. He would naturally wish to know the reason for this remarkable contrast; why a certain portion of the population should be so favored, while the other portions were entirely without the needed facilities? Wherefore luxury and abundance on one side, and beyond the opposite? He would be informed that the reason was that the favored portion of the population formed one municipality by itself, and by the concentration of its wealth and energy thus made possible had been enabled to provide for its own needs; while the rest of the population, — comprising nearly one-half of the entire number of inhabitants occupying the region, and from its rate of growth soon destined to comprise much the larger part of the whole, — being split up into various small communities, divided upon political and not natural lines, had been unable to provide for its needs in an intelligent manner, and thus was in danger of becoming a vast desert of houses, factories

and stores, spreading over and overwhelming the natural features of the landscape, as lines of sand dunes, advancing from the seashore, overwhelm and obliterate the woods and fields. The creation of such a human desert, relieved by hardly an oasis, is threatened upon the greater part of this naturally beautiful region.

MASS. EA1.6 : 2: M5 1/7/insert #4

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The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

A Proclamation

By His Excellency

GOVERNOR WILLIAM F. WELD

1992

WHEREAS: On June 3, 1893, landscape architects Charles Eliot and Sylvester Baxter, Charles Francis Adams, Philip A. Chase, William B. de las Casas, Abraham L. Richards, and William Chase, together with other enlightened citizens of the Commonwealth, created the Metropolitan Park System to carry out a mission of preserving and managing "the rock hills, the stream banks, and the bay and seashore" for the enjoyment of future generations; and

WHEREAS: The Metropolitan Park System currently consists of over 15,000 acres of beaches, rivers, parkway borders and forested reservations which provide the Commonwealth's citizens and tourists with recreational opportunities; and

WHEREAS: The Metropolitan Park System is internationally recognized as the first regional open space system in America and serves as a model for other states and countries in developing a unified system to promote the preservation and enjoyment of parks, rivers, beaches, and forested reservations; and

WHEREAS: The Metropolitan Park System protects the habitat of eastern Massachusetts native flora and fauna including the showy Ladyslipper orchid and the endangered Timber Rattlesnake; and

WHEREAS: The Metropolitan Park System is rich in natural and cultural resources, including:

* The Blue Hills Reservation with its extraordinary archaeological sites
* Revere Beach, the first beach in America redeveloped for public use
* Monuments of the Commonwealth's great contributions to the founding of our country including Fort Independence on Castle Island and the Dorothy Quincy Homestead in Quincy as well as monuments of the Civil War including Fort Warren on Georges Island
* The Charles River Basin, the world renowned waterpark which hosts the celebrated Boston Pops concerts and the Head of the Charles Regatta, the world's largest single day rowing event
* Places of solitude and beauty including the Middlesex Fells and Belle Isle Reservations

WHEREAS: The Centennial of the Metropolitan Park System provides the Commonwealth with an occasion to celebrate the many natural and historic treasures the System has preserved for one hundred years and to plan for the public stewardship of the Metropolitan Park System for the next one hundred years;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, WILLIAM F. WELD, Governor of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, do hereby proclaim 1993 as

THE YEAR OF THE METROPOLITAN PARKS SYSTEM

Given at the Executive Chamber in Boston, this twenty-fourth day of November in the year one thousand nine hundred and ninety-two and in the year of the Independence of the United States of America, the two hundred and seventeenth.

By His Excellency the Governor

William F. Weld
WILLIAM F. WELD

Michael J. Connolly
MICHAEL J. CONNOLLY
Secretary of the Commonwealth

GOD SAVE THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS